10 TV SHOWS & MOVIES TO STREAM RIGHT NOW

Page 44

Entertainment Weekly

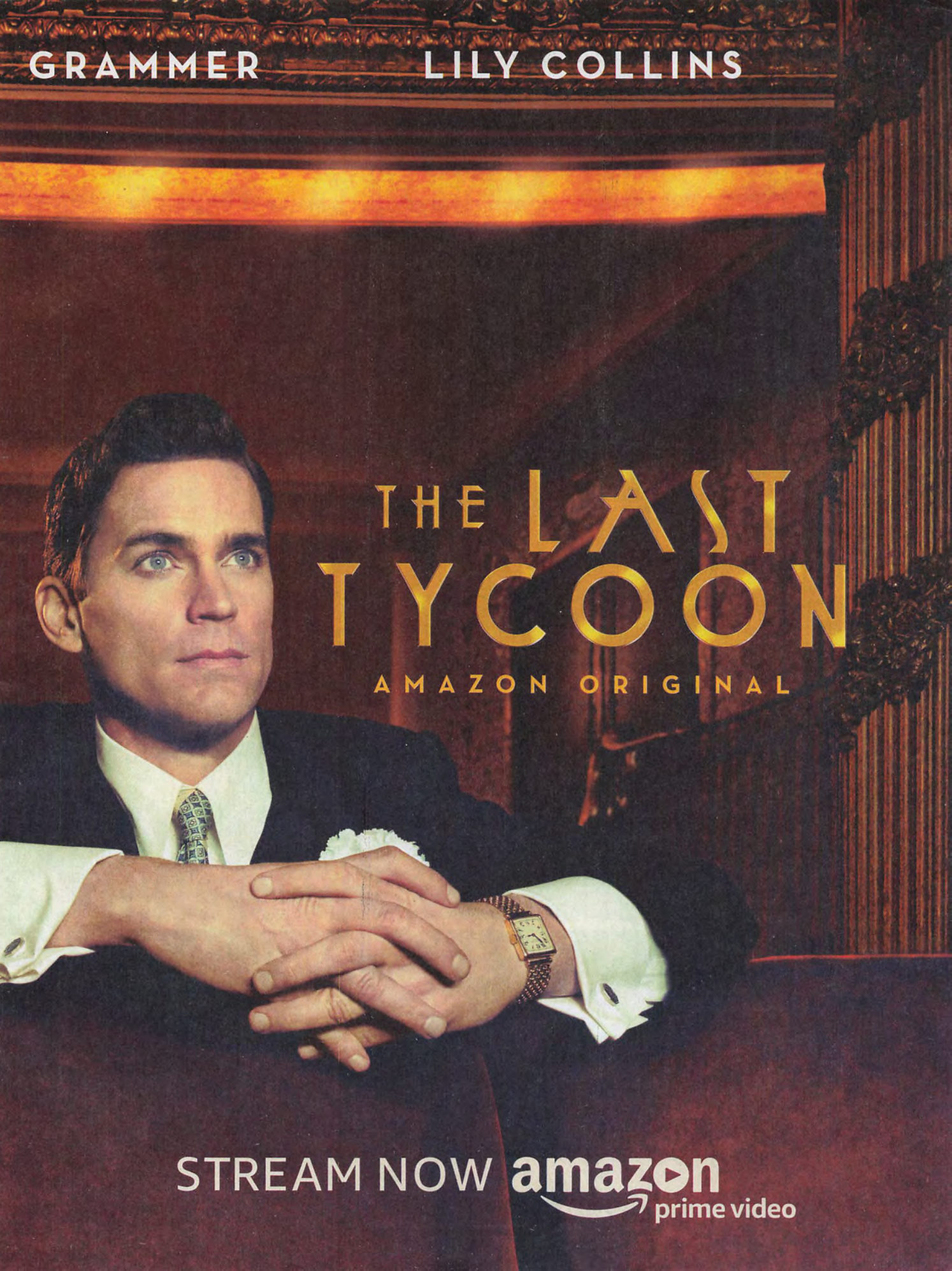
AUGUST 11, 2017 #1477

Exclusive FIRST LOOK Entertainment

Will & Grace & Karen & Just Jack

HONEY, THEY'RE BACK—AND THEY'RE FUNNIER, MORE TOPICAL, AND GAYER THAN EVER. A PREVIEW OF THE YEAR'S MOST ANTICIPATED REVIVAL. By Lynette Rice

MATT BOMER
KELSEY
They created the Hollywood Dream.
But every dream has a price.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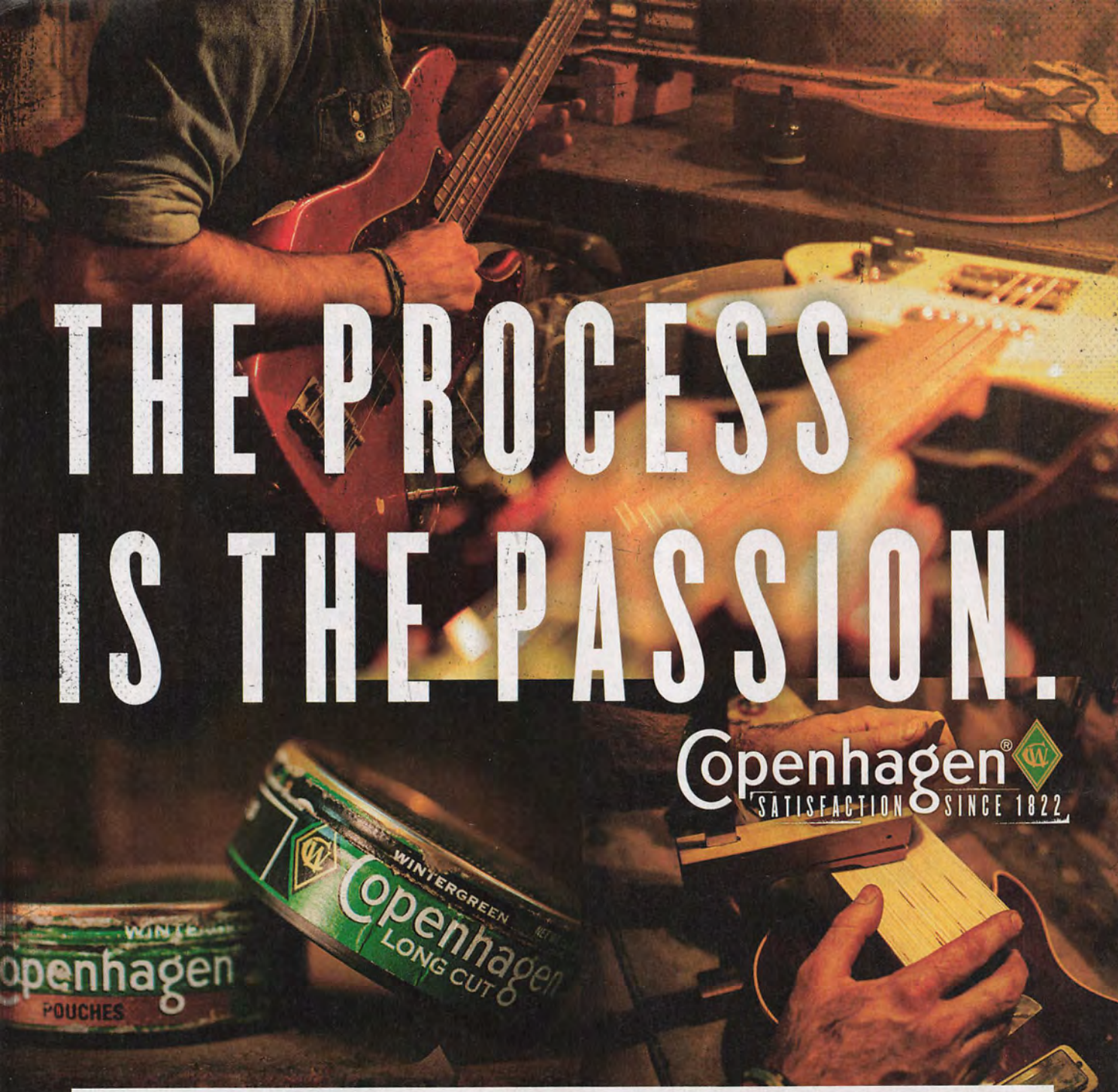

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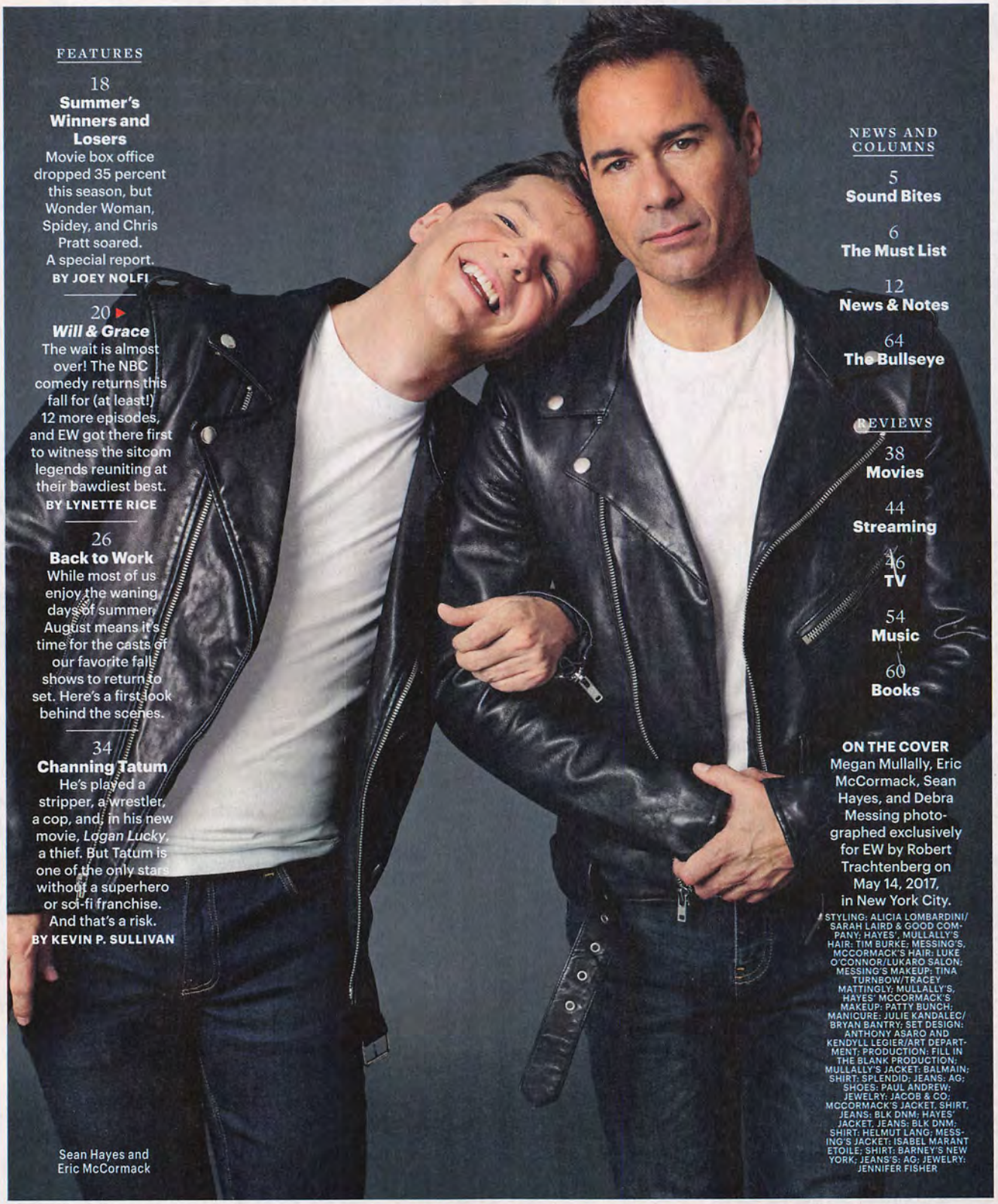

Sean Hayes and Eric McCormack

FEATURES

18
Summer's Winners and Losers
Movie box office dropped 35 percent this season, but Wonder Woman, Spidey, and Chris Pratt soared. A special report.
BY JOEY NOLFI

20
Will & Grace
The wait is almost over! The NBC comedy returns this fall for (at least!) 12 more episodes, and EW got there first to witness the sitcom legends reuniting at their bawdiest best.
BY LYNETTE RICE

26
Back to Work
While most of us enjoy the waning days of summer, August means it's time for the casts of our favorite fall shows to return to set. Here's a first look behind the scenes.

34
Channing Tatum
He's played a stripper, a wrestler, a cop, and, in his new movie, *Logan Lucky*, a thief. But Tatum is one of the only stars without a superhero or sci-fi franchise. And that's a risk.
BY KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

NEWS AND COLUMNS

5
Sound Bites

6
The Must List

12
News & Notes

64
The Bullseye

REVIEWS

38
Movies

44
Streaming

46
TV

54
Music

60
Books

ON THE COVER
Megan Mullally, Eric McCormack, Sean Hayes, and Debra Messing photographed exclusively for EW by Robert Trachtenberg on May 14, 2017, in New York City.

STYLING: ALICIA LOMBARDINI/SARAH LAIRD & GOOD COMPANY; HAYES', MULLALLY'S HAIR: TIM BURKE; MESSING'S, MCCORMACK'S HAIR: LUKE O'CONNOR/LUKARO SALON; MESSING'S MAKEUP: TINA TURNBOW/TRACEY MATTINGLY; MULLALLY'S, HAYES' MCCORMACK'S MAKEUP: PATTY BUNCH; MANICURE: JULIE KANDALEC/BRYAN BANTRY; SET DESIGN: ANTHONY ASARO AND KENDYLL LEGIER/ART DEPARTMENT; PRODUCTION: FILL IN THE BLANK PRODUCTION; MULLALLY'S JACKET: BALMAIN; SHIRT: SPLENDID; JEANS: AG; SHOES: PAUL ANDREW; JEWELRY: JACOB & CO; MCCORMACK'S JACKET, SHIRT, JEANS: BLK DNM; HAYES' JACKET, JEANS: BLK DNM; SHIRT: HELMUT LANG; MESSING'S JACKET: ISABEL MARANT ETOILE; SHIRT: BARNEY'S NEW YORK; JEANS: AG; JEWELRY: JENNIFER FISHER

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PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT TRACHTENBERG

Because news doesn't take the summer off.

WEEKEND UPDATE
SUMMER EDITION

LIVE! **AUG 10 | THURSDAYS 9/8c** NBC

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Sound Bites

TWEET OF THE WEEK
Scaramucci is Euron Greyjoy. Two weeks ago I had no idea who he was & now he's all over everything. **@kumailn (Kumail Nanjiani)** comparing the new former White House communications director to the *Game of Thrones* character

"Tell Cersei. I want her to know it was me."
—Lady Olenna (Diana Rigg), confessing to Jaime (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau) that she plotted King Joffrey's assassination, on *Game of Thrones*

"I'm Nora Ephron, bitch!"
—Sutton (Meghann Fahy), after successfully negotiating a job offer, on *The Bold Type*

"He had amazing breath. It wasn't minty—it was just perfect."
—Paula Patton, revealing one of her favorite onscreen kisses was with Tom Cruise in *Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol*, on *Live With Kelly and Ryan*

"Latinos!"
—Andy Cohen, revealing Anderson Cooper's biggest turn-on after the newsman refused to answer Olivia Wilde's question, on *Watch What Happens Live*

"That's cool. What's her name?"
—Ali (Gaby Hoffmann), learning that her transgender parent is dating again, in the *Transparent* season 4 trailer

"Donald."
—Maura (Jeffrey Tambor)

"I feel like if I want to watch a bunch of morally corrupt dudes do some stuff, I could just, like, literally leave my apartment at any given moment."
—Jessica (Jessica Williams), dissing both *The Sopranos* and Brooklyn, in *The Incredible Jessica James*

NANJIANI: CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP; FAHY: JUSTIN COIT/FREEFORM; RIGG: HELEN SLOAN/HBO; PATTON: NICOLE VASQUEZ/GETTY IMAGES; HOFFMANN: AMAZON STUDIOS; COHEN: CHARLES SYKES/BRAVO; WILLIAMS: NETFLIX; TAMBOR: AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

THE **TOP 10** THINGS WE LOVE THIS WEEK

The Must List

▼ Elizabeth Banks, Amy Poehler, Adam Scott, and Paul Rudd

SAEED ADYANI/NETFLIX (4)

1

TV

WET HOT AMERICAN SUMMER: TEN YEARS LATER

• Two years after the prequel series, Amy Poehler, Paul Rudd, and the rest of the gang reunite (minus Bradley Cooper but plus Adam Scott) to save their beloved Camp Firewood in this farcical and absurdist limited series that picks up where the cult movie left off. (*Netflix*)

ILLUSTRATION BY BETH HOECKEL

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A PLACE AT THE TABLE

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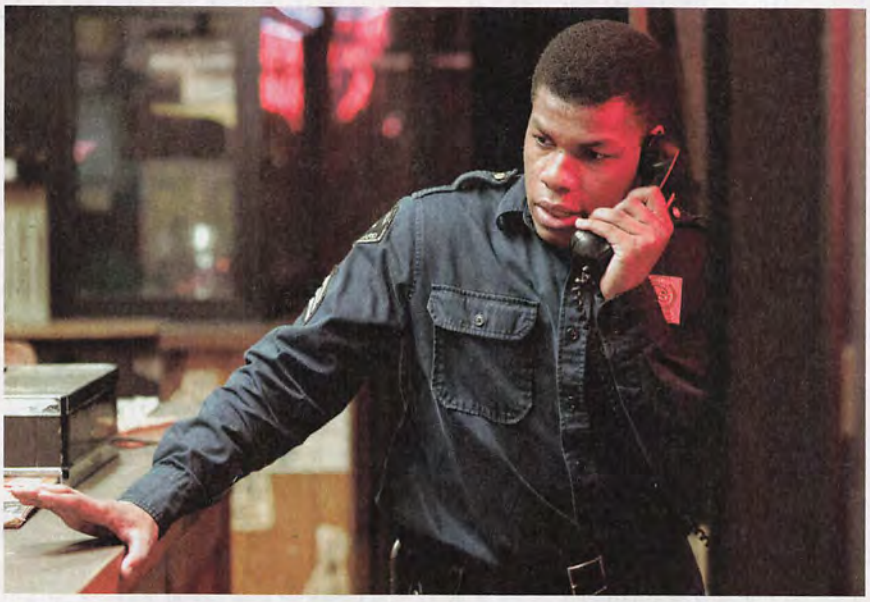

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2 MOVIES
DETROIT

• Kathryn Bigelow remains an essential cinematic voice with her latest film: a masterful, searing dramatization of events surrounding the titular city's 1967 12th Street riot, starring John Boyega, Anthony Mackie, and Will Poulter. *(R)*

3 BOOKS
MURDER BALLADS

• Writer Gabe Soria's graphic novel is a note-perfect tale of music and mayhem, with an accompanying soundtrack from bluesman Robert Finley and Black Keys singer Dan Auerbach.

4 MUSIC
PLASTIC SOUL, Mondo Cozmo

• Joshua Ostrander's debut album as Mondo Cozmo is packed to the gills with epic, rafter-shaking alt-rock in the vein of his 2016 breakout single "Shine." And despite the title, it's also got plenty of heart.

5 TV
DIFFICULT PEOPLE

• Julie Klausner and Billy Eichner return in the sardonic comedy's hilarious third season, which boasts insane ayahuasca trips, government-run gay-conversion-therapy programs, and exciting guest stars, like John Cho, Vanessa Williams, and Larry Wilmore. *(Tuesdays, Hulu)*

DETROIT: FRANCOIS DUHAMEL/ANNAPURNA PICTURES; *DIFFICULT PEOPLE*: BARBARA NITKE/HULU

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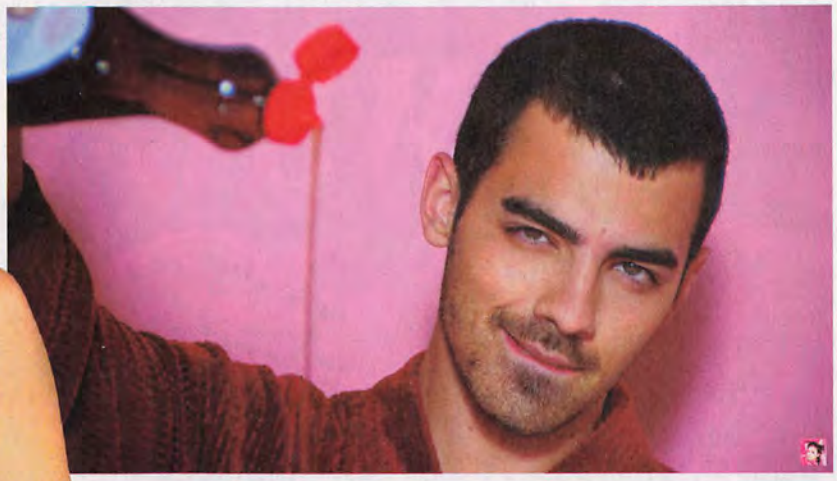
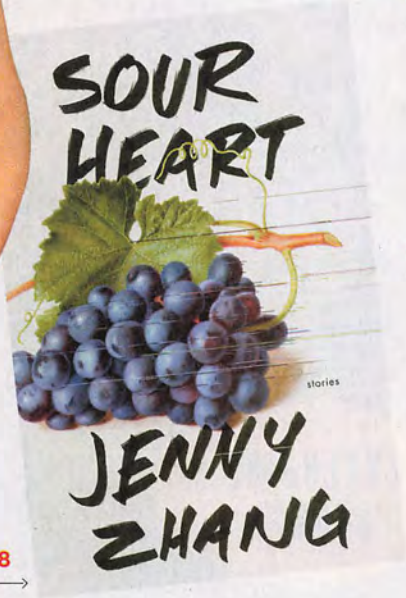
7 →





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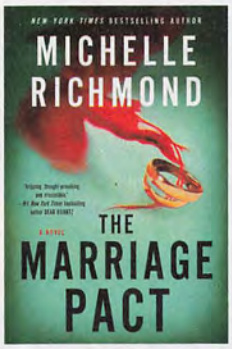

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TV

THE STORY OF DIANA

• To mark the 20th anniversary of Princess Diana's death, *People* and ABC team up for this insightful two-night special that dives into her life and features exclusive home footage and interviews with her family and friends. *(Aug. 9 and 10, ABC)*

7

MUSIC

"BOYS," Charli XCX

• Joe Jonas seductively eating pancakes, Jack Antonoff lifting weights, Charlie Puth washing a car—Charli flips the script on music-video objectification with this star-studded clip (yes, that's Riz Ahmed!) for her lush new earworm.

8

BOOKS

SOUR HEART, by Jenny Zhang

• Zhang's debut collection—the first release from Lena Dunham and Jenni Konner's imprint at Random House—tells the loosely linked stories of young Chinese immigrant girls in New York as they come of age and experience everything from poverty to puberty.

9

MOVIES

WIND RIVER

• After writing tense, critical favorites *Hell or High Water* and *Sicario*, Taylor Sheridan directs this brooding murder mystery, starring Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen. Expect to hear Sheridan's name once again come Oscar season. *(R)*

10

BOOKS

THE MARRIAGE PACT, by Michelle Richmond

• When Jake and Alice receive an intriguing wedding gift from an acquaintance, they realize too late that they've been lured into an elite cult with outrageous rules for successful marriages—and even more bizarre punishments.

PRINCESS DIANA: PETER CARRETTE ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; *WIND RIVER*: FRED HAYES/THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

News+Notes

HELEN SLOAN/HBO

EXCLUSIVE SCOOP!

DRAGONS AND WOLVES AND RATINGS, OH MY!

Now that the King in the North and the Mother of Dragons have finally crossed paths, we uncover what's next for the pair—and for HBO's blockbuster hit **Game of Thrones**. By James Hibberd

•••

The stars of *Game of Thrones* agree: It was totally weird at first.

In Spain last September, **Kit Harington** and **Emilia Clarke** showed up on the same set on the same day after working for more than six years on the same international hit series without ever once sharing the same scene. Jon Snow was finally meeting Daenerys Targaryen in a potential game-changing union that fans have longed to witness for years. "Both of us were going, 'Aah, what are you doing on my set?! This is weird! There's another Hair in town, and I don't like it,'" the blond-wigged Clarke told us between takes on set about her costar with the famously blessed follicles. Harington, who recalls awkwardly asking Clarke to remind him what her dragons were named, concurs: "We were both kind of freaking out."

"Usually you start working on a movie and meet [a costar] for the first time and you develop chemistry on screen over time," Harington says. "Here you know somebody for seven years and you've watched their character on screen all that time. So it's a unique experience as an actor to come together and know the world is watching."

And watch they did: *Game of Thrones*, already HBO's biggest hit ever for a couple of years now, is having its most monstrous season by far—the season 7 opener has racked up an incredible 30 million viewers across the network's U.S. platforms, while around the world the fantasy drama is setting new viewership records in many of its 186 territories, where the show typically premieres at the same moment as in the U.S. (To avoid next-day spoilers, U.K. fans will stay up until 2 a.m. to watch new episodes.)

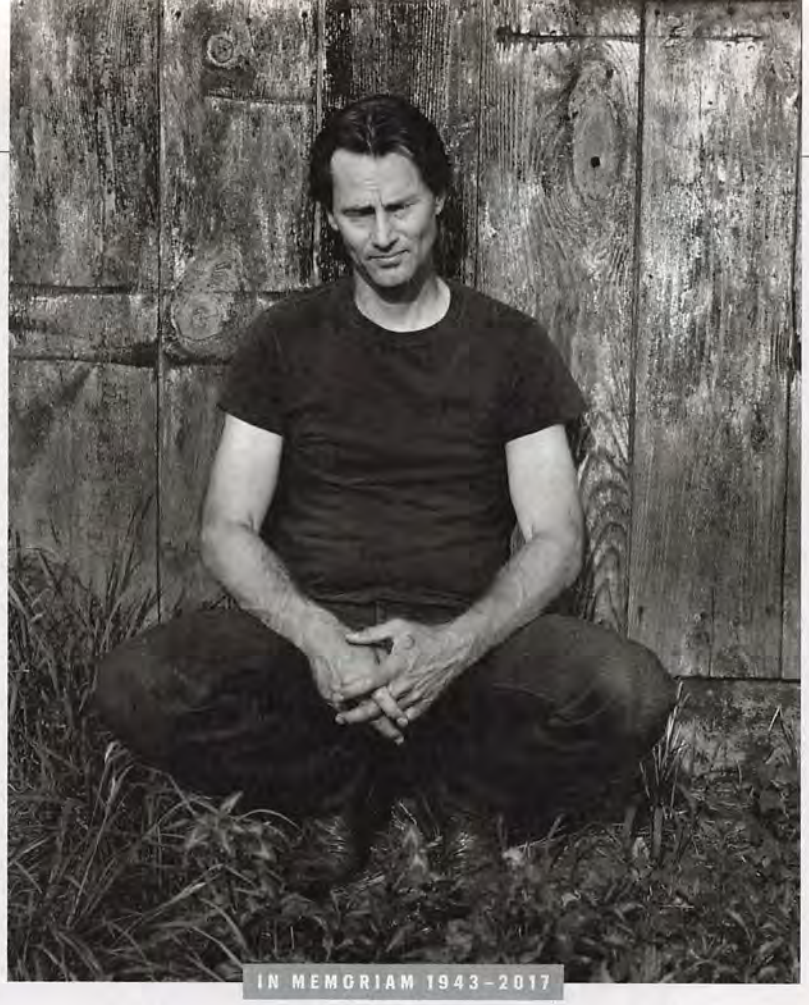
Part of *GoT*'s latest popularity surge could be credited to the current season's rapid-paced endgame focus: The first three of seven episodes this summer have each delivered long-awaited character meetings, major plot developments, and intense—and fatal—action sequences. But the King in the North meeting the Mother of Dragons is arguably the season's most seismic moment—and could mark a TV first as well. (Has any other series kept two of its biggest stars in entirely separate story lines for six seasons?) "Jon meeting Dany is something we've been thinking about and talking about for quite some time, and there's so much pressure on that scene because there's so much anticipation for it," showrunner David Benioff says. "Emilia and Kit were both so on, bringing so many layers of subtlety and all the backstory into that meeting."

After that rather testy first conversation in the July 30 episode, Jon and Daenerys reached a tentative agreement to cooperate on Snow's goal to combat the Army of the Dead while Dany readies to go after Cersei Lannister's forces with everything she's got (dragons!). "It's the first major battle we've ever done that has soldiers and horse elements and creature effects, too—and that happens to include lots of things catching on fire," showrunner Dan Weiss says. "We've never really blown s--- up like we've done in this episode."

With only four installments left (and the eighth and final season not due until late 2018 or early 2019), fans shouldn't expect the intensity to let up—or for Jon and Daenerys' relationship to progress quite as you'd guess. "It could be them walking off into the sunset," Harington says, "or it could be them killing each other."

Elsewhere in Westeros...

Daenerys isn't the only monarch who's been under fire. HBO has been fending off *Game of Thrones*-related attacks on multiple fronts: On July 31, HBO announced that hackers had successfully infiltrated the company while apparently seeking upcoming *GoT* episodes (as of press time, they only managed to leak the likes of *Ballers* and *Room 104*, plus some *GoT* spoilers). HBO called the hacks "disruptive, unsettling and disturbing"—which could also be used to describe how some critics view *Confederate*, a new series in the works from *GoT* showrunners David Benioff and Dan Weiss. The alternative-history drama, which imagines a world where the South won the Civil War and seceded to form a nation where slavery is legal, fired up activists who are urging HBO to dump it by tweeting "#NoConfederate" during *GoT* telecasts. HBO responded in a statement, "The project is currently in its infancy so we hope that people will reserve judgment until there is something to see." Given that *Confederate* won't even start production until after *GoT* ends, HBO's plea requires a lot of the one commodity rarer than dragonglass: patience.



IN MEMORIAM 1943–2017

Sam Shepard

Sam Shepard looked like a cowboy and wrote like a poet. The Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, who died July 27 at the age of 73 after battling ALS, became an unlikely movie star. **Ethan Hawke**, *who worked with him on both stage and screen, spoke about the friend he knew.* —*As told to Sara Vilkomerson*

For my generation, there's a bit of hero worship that went along with Sam. He was someone who could act and direct and write at such a high level. He's a poet of the first order. I first saw a production of *True West* when I was 14. That production did for my generation what Brando and *Streetcar* had done for a generation earlier. It was the same time he was in *The Right Stuff*. Playing Chuck Yeager is one of the coolest performances this side of *Rebel Without a Cause*.

The first time I met him I was 24. I was at a urinal during intermission of the first read-through of [Shepard's drama] *Buried Child* in Chicago. I later told [film director] Richard Linklater, and he said, "Well, you're pissing in the tall grass with the big dogs now!"

What a lot of young people get wrong about Sam is that he wasn't *just* cool. When you worked with him, he was a very serious person. He'd come to rehearsal and talk about Greek myths and weird obscure playwrights. I once went into a bookstore and found him in the Spanish section, poring over how to learn Spanish in six weeks or less. He was disarmingly humble and wildly self-serious. He could walk that razor's edge.

Here's one of my favorite stories: I was living at the Chelsea Hotel, and I had to wake up at dawn to walk my puppy. Outside was Sam Shepard reading all the famous-artist plaques on the wall. We'd worked together a bunch already, and I invited him in for coffee. We were heading to the elevator, and Sam was telling me about how he used to live there and wrote with Patti Smith there, when we run into the owner of the Chelsea—Stanley Bard, this old-school New Yorker. Sam said hi and then, "What do you gotta do to get a plaque on the wall? I did some good writing here!" And Stanley said, "Well, unfortunately, Mr. Shepard, you have to die." And Sam went, "I see Arthur Miller's got one out there, and he's not dead." And Stanley went, "Well, Mr. Shepard, I'm sure I'm not the first to tell you you're no Arthur Miller." Sam burst out laughing so hard.

In the years I knew him, he could be many different people. He was a complicated person. He was wise, and I think he got wise fighting a lot of things about himself. He was a deeply curious person, always learning, always staying interested. He was writing beautifully at the highest level even at the end. I wish he hadn't been sick, and I really wish we could have worked together again. It was always an honor.

A MAN IN FULL

Sam Shepard's career hit many highs. Here are just a few.

BY JOEY NOLFI

THE TOOTH OF CRIME
1972
Shepard's musical about dueling rock stars is one of 11 plays he penned to win Obie Awards.

DAYS OF HEAVEN
1978
Shepard scored his first major film role, as an ill-fated farmer, in Terrence Malick's masterpiece.

BURIED CHILD
1978
This Pulitzer Prize-winning family drama cemented Shepard as a dramatic force.

TRUE WEST
1980
A bitter sibling rivalry comes to a head in Shepard's tense Hollywood drama.

FOOL FOR LOVE
1983
The desert-set romance scored Shepard his third Pulitzer nomination as a playwright.

THE RIGHT STUFF
1983
Shepard earned his first and only Oscar nod playing maverick test pilot Chuck Yeager.

SHEPARD: HERB RITTS/TRUNK ARCHIVE; *THE RIGHT STUFF*: © WARNER BROS./EVERETT COLLECTION

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CELEBRITY DATING GAME!

Verify My Love

Dating app Loveflutter just unveiled Blue, for verified Twitter users only. (No check mark, no dice!) We asked matchmaker **Patti Stanger** *to tell us what Twitter-approved couples we should be shipping.*

IDRIS ELBA, 44 + **HALLE BERRY**, 50

They'd be a fit, chemistry-wise. The age range is really good, and he's an actor on her level. Most of the people she dates are below her.

ELLEN PAGE, 30 + **KATHERINE MOENNIG**, 39

I think Katherine's adorable. They're kind of both masculine in energy, but there's a baby-doll quality to Ellen, which I think would be cute for the two of them.

LIEV SCHREIBER, 49 + **ROBIN WRIGHT**, 51

They're both strong actors with kids—and he likes that blond look. She needs somebody rugged [who] takes charge. I really like him for her.

CHRIS EVANS, 36 + **BELLA HADID**, 20

I have a weird feeling that they would hit it off. [He would be] young and goofy with her, and he'd make her smile for a change. I just feel it; I know chemistry. [It's] intuition. —*As told to Jami Ganz*

TCA HALFTIME REPORT

COMING SOON TO A TV NEAR YOU

Just one week into the semiannual Television Critics Association's press tour, networks ordered a slew of big-name projects—but also dropped some bad news for *Game of Thrones* and *American Gods* fans. BY NATALIE ABRAMS

GREENLIGHT DISTRICT

National Geographic kicked off the conference by announcing an adaptation of Tom Wolfe's 1979 space-race classic *The Right Stuff* (previously adapted into a feature film in 1983), with Oscar winner **Leonardo DiCaprio** attached as an EP. *Wonder Woman* director **Patty Jenkins** will reteam with star **Chris Pine** for the TNT drama *One Day She'll Darken*, inspired by the autobiography of Fauna Hodel, whose grandfather had ties to the infamous Black Dahlia murder. Over at AMC, *UnREAL* co-creator **Marti Noxon** will adapt to series Sarai Walker's 2015 novel *Dietland*, which explores society's obsession with weight loss via an obese columnist caught between two feminist cults. CBS All Access will get into the comedy game with ***No Activity***—from Will Ferrell and Adam McKay's Funny or Die and Gary Sanchez Productions—which follows the mundane day-to-day of a sting operation. And *Twilight* author **Stephenie Meyer** will take a stab at TV as an EP on the supernatural spy thriller *The Rook* for Starz. There are vampires, but they don't sparkle in the sun. We hope.

DELAYED GRATIFICATION

File these under "coming soon-*ish*." After what felt like forever, winter is finally here—and it's a good thing *Game of Thrones* fans are used to waiting: HBO president of programming Casey Bloys says that if any of the four ***Game of Thrones* prequels** currently in development make it to air, it won't be until at least a

STANGER: D DIPASUPIL/GETTY IMAGES; ELBA: DAVID M. BENETT/DAVE BENETT/GETTY IMAGES FOR SUPERDRY; BERRY: ALEXANDER TAMARGO/GETTY IMAGES; PAGE: JENKINS AND PINE: JEFFREY MAYER/WIREIMAGE (2); MOENNIG: MICHAEL TRAN/FILMMAGIC; SCHREIBER: MIKE PONT/WIREIMAGE; WRIGHT: GEORGE PIMENTEL/WIREIMAGE; EVANS: CJ RIVERA/FILMMAGIC; HADID: VENTURELLI/GETTY IMAGES FOR BVLGARI; *UNREAL*: JAMES DITTIGER/LIFETIME; *FAMILY MATTERS*: EVERETT COLLECTION

Million Dollar Matchmaker premieres Aug. 4 at 10 p.m. on WE tv

year after the final season. Starz, meanwhile, sees "no end in sight" for ***American Gods***, but CEO Chris Albrecht admits the show's complexity and ever-growing cast will likely delay the return of season 2. In the plus column, ***UnREAL*** scored a *very* early season 4 renewal: Season 3 won't even debut until 2018. Fingers crossed they're using the extra time to prepare the most dramatic elimination ceremony ever.

DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK

What's old is new again as Hulu resurrects TGIF, with more than 800 episodes of America's favorite Friday-night lineup from the '90s—including ***Full House***, ***Family Matters***, and ***Step by Step***—set to drop Sept. 29. HBO is going retro too, with **Jon Stewart** headlining his first stand-up special in 21 years. The network also inches closer to its highly anticipated ***Deadwood*** movie: Bloys calls the David Milch-penned scripts he's read "terrific" but also recognizes certain hurdles, like reuniting the large cast on a realistic budget. And two years after ***True Detective*** limped to the end of its second installment, a third season of Nic Pizzolatto's anthology crime drama is in the works. Though it's in the very early stages, Oscar winner **Mahershala Ali** has already signed on to star.

ALL: PHILLIP FARAONE/GETTY IMAGES; STEWART: GARY GERSHOFF/WIREIMAGE; MEESTER AND BRODY: ARAYA DIAZ/GETTY IMAGES FOR FEEDING AMERICA

Leighton Meester and husband Adam Brody at Feeding America's Summer Hunger Awareness event at Para Los Niños in L.A. in June

ACT *With Me*

STARS SHARE THEIR PERSONAL STORIES ABOUT GIVING BACK

LEIGHTON MEESTER FIGHTS HUNGER

CHARITY	WHAT THEY DO
Feeding America (feedingamerica.org)	Work to end hunger in the U.S. by partnering with 200 food banks and 60,000 food pantries and meal programs

WHY I TOOK ACTION

When Leighton Meester was growing up, there were times that her family had to decide "between eating and paying the electric bill." She joined the organization to increase awareness. "You think about what a joyful experience it is to be able to have a meal and feel secure on that level—the fact that there are so many people who don't, that was jarring," she says.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

"A lot of people don't realize it's less than a step away to have that kind of challenge on a day-to-day basis," she says. "It's your neighbor, your friend, your co-worker, your schoolmate—they might go home at night and not be able to put food on the table."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Make a donation or volunteer. Meester lends a hand at the L.A. Downtown Women's Center and Para Los Niños charter school, where she helps serve food and educate communities about nutrition. "It's amazing to be actually face-to-face to people who are doing good and people who are benefiting from it," she says.

—*Maureen Lee Lenker*

BOX OFFICE REPORT

SUMMER'S WINNE

WINNERS

FRESH FILMMAKING

Original concepts injected a jolt of adrenaline into an era of aging franchises and tiresome sequels. Audiences responded to new perspectives on history (**Dunkirk**, $101.3 million and climbing), romantic comedy (**The Big Sick**, $30.2 million), the heist flick (**Baby Driver**, $92 million), and even the superhero movie: A youthful, witty **Spider-Man: Homecoming** should pass $300 million before Labor Day.

FIERCE FEMMES

Wonder Woman, the first stand-alone movie for a female superhero, reigns as summer's highest-grossing film ($395.2 million at press time), and her 2017 cinematic sisters took note; **Girls Trip** quenched a comedy drought with a $31.2 million bow, and Sofia Coppola packed fans into **The Beguiled**'s debut with a strong $57,323 per-screen average in limited release.

STEALTH HITS

Some of the biggest box office surprises arrived in small packages. Buzzy genre fare (**47 Meters Down** topped $42.7 million), an interracial YA romance (**Everything, Everything** loved up 34.1 million), and demographic-driven dramas (**Lowriders** drove $6.2 million) all quietly racked up profits without much fanfare.

COOL CHRIS-ES

Chris-mas came early this year for Hollywood's leading trifecta of same-named stars, each of whom launched high-profile superhero successes, like Pratt's **Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2** ($387.8 million), Pine's *Wonder Woman* ($395.2 million), and Evans' hilarious self-mocking Captain America cameo in *Spider-Man: Homecoming* ($278.2 million).

(Clockwise from bottom left) *The Big Sick; Spider-Man: Homecoming; Wonder Woman; Girls Trip; Dunkirk; Snatched; Transformers: The Last Knight; Baywatch; The Mummy; Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*

Your Hella Early Summer 2018 Preview!

If this summer felt like a snore, next year's movies should perk you up

AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR
May 4
Every single Marvel hero in one film. Happy now?

STAR WARS: UNTITLED HAN SOLO FILM
May 25
We're even more excited about a young Chewbacca.

DEADPOOL 2
June 1
Faster, please. We're waiting.

ILLUSTRATION BY RICHARD ROBERTS

RS AND LOSERS

A slew of Nasty Women, a band of trusty superheroes, and Jack Sparrow walk into a movie theater... That was the setup for the summer, but domestic ticket sales became the butt of the joke, trailing 35 percent behind last year's at press time. Not funny. At least some films laughed all the way to the bank. **BY JOEY NOLFI**

LOSERS

FADING FRANCHISES

While healthy foreign grosses kept this year's big-budget continuations afloat, domestic moviegoers have grown weary of aging properties that simply retread tired formulas: **Despicable Me 3** ($230.3 million), **Transformers: The Last Knight** ($128.8 million), **Cars 3** ($146.4 million), and **Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales** ($171 million) all registered series-low totals in the U.S.

FUNNY GUYS (AND GALS)

The joyriding ladies of *Girls Trip* aside, comedy traversed a bumpy road this summer. **Rough Night** ($21.9 million) lived up to its title, and **Baywatch** ($58.1 million) sank the Rock's winning streak. America didn't even humor Amy Schumer's **Snatched** ($45.8 million), or **The House** ($24.9 million), featuring genre staples Will Ferrell and Amy Poehler.

FAMED DIRECTORS

Well-known filmmakers couldn't command audience attention this year either. Expensive underperformers included Ridley Scott's **Alien: Covenant** ($74.1 million), Guy Ritchie's **King Arthur: Legend of the Sword** ($39.2 million), Michael Bay's fifth Transformers movie ($128.8 million), *Jurassic World* director Colin Trevorrow's drama detour **The Book of Henry** ($4.3 million), and Luc Besson's **Valerian** ($30.2 million and counting).

CREATURE CRUISE

Audiences aren't showing Tom Cruise the money after all. Intended as a launchpad for Universal's Dark Universe, **The Mummy** unraveled across its Stateside run, earning just under $80 million—well below its reported $125 million budget. Luckily, Cruise's next *Mission: Impossible* film should put him back in the black next year. ◆

OCEAN'S 8
June 8
Bullock. Blanchett. Hathaway. Heaven.

THE INCREDIBLES 2
June 15
At last, more fantastic Elastigirl!

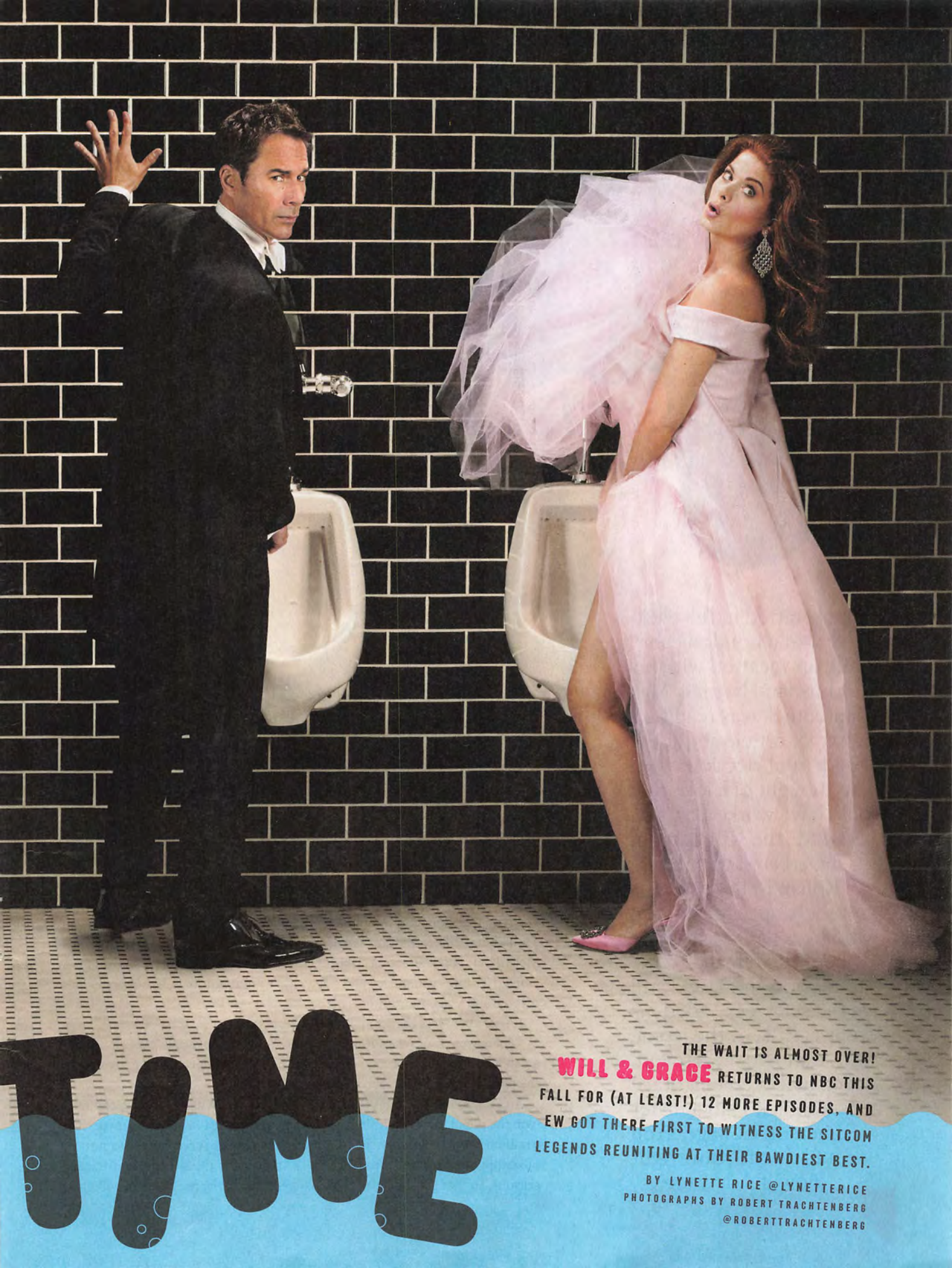
JURASSIC WORLD: FALLEN KINGDOM
June 22
Bigger and Prattier than ever.

ANT-MAN AND THE WASP
July 6
Our tiny hero returns—and brings Michelle Pfeiffer!

SPIDER-MAN: HOMECOMING: COLUMBIA PICTURES; *THE BIG SICK*: NICOLE RIVELLI/LIONSGATE; *WONDER WOMAN*: CLAY ENOS/WARNER BROS.; *GIRLS TRIP*: MICHELE K. SHORT/UNIVERSAL; *DUNKIRK*: MELINDA SUE GORDON/WARNER BROS.; *SNATCHED*: JUSTINA MINTZ/FOX; *BAYWATCH*: FRANK MASI/PARAMOUNT; *TRANSFORMERS: THE LAST KNIGHT*: PARAMOUNT PICTURES/BAY FILMS; *THE MUMMY*: CHIABELLA JAMES/UNIVERSAL; *PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES*: PETER MOUNTAIN/DISNEY; ELIZABETH OLSEN: ZADE ROSENTHAL/© 2016 MARVEL; *STAR WARS*: © & TM LUCASFILM, LTD.; *DEADPOOL*: JOE LEDERER/FOX; SANDRA BULLOCK: ALESSIO BOTTICELLI/FILMMAGIC; *THE INCREDIBLES*: © PIXAR/DISNEY; CHRIS PRATT: CHUCK ZLOTNICK/UNIVERSAL; MICHELLE PFEIFFER: DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

Megan Mullally, Sean Hayes, Eric McCormack, and Debra Messing photographed on May 14, 2017, in New York City

IT'S GO



TIME

THE WAIT IS ALMOST OVER! **WILL & GRACE** RETURNS TO NBC THIS FALL FOR (AT LEAST!) 12 MORE EPISODES, AND EW GOT THERE FIRST TO WITNESS THE SITCOM LEGENDS REUNITING AT THEIR BAWDIEST BEST.

BY LYNETTE RICE @LYNETTERICE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT TRACHTENBERG
@ROBERTTRACHTENBERG

It all started in the backseat of a London cab. ¶ While on vacation with his husband last fall, Max Mutchnick was reading a newspaper article about the presidential election when he thought of a joke that would have worked on *Will & Grace*, the NBC sitcom he created with David Kohan in 1998 about a charmingly uptight gay man who lives with his lovably neurotic female friend. "Well, you and David still have the set," responded his spouse, Erik, of the iconic New York City apartment, which had been in storage at Mutchnick's alma mater Emerson College. "You could do the show right now if you wanted."

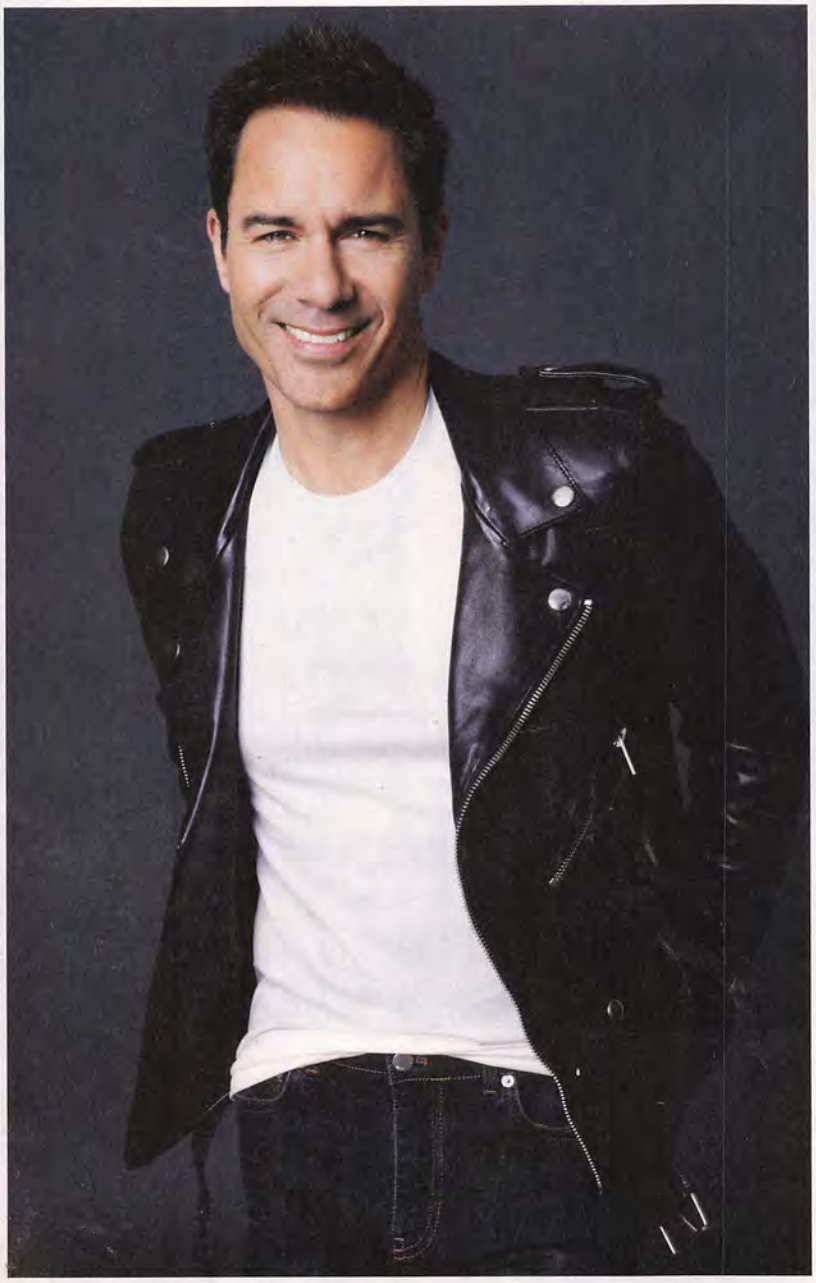
The next day, Mutchnick sent an email to stars Eric McCormack (corporate attorney Will Truman), Debra Messing (interior designer Grace Adler), Megan Mullally (socialite Karen Walker), and Sean Hayes (bombastic actor Jack McFarland) about shooting a short get-out-the-vote video that would address Donald Trump's candidacy and a few other random topics, like Brangelina's divorce and Viggo Mortensen's nether region.

It took them less than 40 minutes to respond.

"There were four yeses. It was amazing," Mutchnick recalls. "We gave them a date and brought everybody back together. Pretty much every person from the pilot did this. It was incredible."

And though it didn't get Hillary Clinton into the White House, it certainly won the popular vote. Within days of being posted last September, more than 7 million people clicked on the 10-minute video, which served up the same type of snappy repartee and "Just Jack" jokes that made the sitcom run for eight seasons. So that got the network thinking: If that many people were willing to

(PHOTO SHOOT) STYLING: ALICIA LOMBARDINI/SARAH LAIRD & GOOD COMPANY; HAYES': MULLALLY'S HAIR: TIM BURKE; MESSING'S, MCCORMACK'S HAIR: LUKE O'CONNOR/LUKARO SALON; MULLALLY'S MAKEUP: MARIO MARTINEZ; MESSING'S MAKEUP: PATTY BUNCH; MANICURE: JULIE ANDALEC/BRYAN BANTRY; SET DESIGN: ANTHONY ASARO AND KENDYLL LEGIER/ART DEPARTMENT; PRODUCTION: FILL IN THE BLANK PRODUCTION



(OPENER) MULLALLY'S DRESS: REEM ACRA; SHOES: NO.21; JEWELRY: FRED LEIGHTON; HAYES' JACKET: RALPH LAUREN; SHIRT, CUFFLINKS: JOSEPH ABBOUD; PANTS: BROOKS BROTHERS; BOW TIE: DRAKE'S; WATCH: TOURNEAU; SHOES: GIORGIO ARMANI; MCCORMACK'S JACKET, PANTS: RALPH LAUREN; SHIRT: JOSEPH ABBOUD; BOW TIE: DRAKE'S; SHOES: TOM FORD; SOCKS: DOLCE & GABBANA; MESSING'S DRESS: J. MENDEL; SHOES: MANOLO BLAHNIK; JEWELRY: JACOB & CO.

click on a YouTube video, how would they feel about a limited-run reunion for the network this fall? "I had started talking very much in secret with Max, who clued me in to the secret reunion special that they were making," says NBC Entertainment chairman Robert Greenblatt. "We didn't do anything overt until after it streamed and we saw the reaction. I said to Max, 'They look amazing. They look the exact same. The show is the same. It's hilarious and insightful. What about doing more episodes?'"

Lucky for the suits, the Fab Four were already thinking big-picture. "I was sitting on the couch in my house reading the script," remembers Mullally, "and then I emailed Max and I said, 'Why can't we do this show again?' And he emailed right back saying, 'We can!'"

Messing was equally enamored with the idea of getting the band back together again for more than just a special: "I always thought about the four of us as being like an orchestra and each of us playing a different instrument and creating a musical together. Comedy is music. Once we started playing the music again it was like, Oh, I know how this song goes."

"I DON'T THINK WE WERE TRAILBLAZING IN ANY WAY. I feel like gay men and straight women were everywhere all throughout the country, but no one was writing about it or putting it on TV. We just lucked out that we did it first," says Mutchnick modestly. (Tell that to former vice president Joe Biden, who in 2012 said in his first public endorsement of gay marriage that *Will & Grace* had done more to further LGBTQ equality than anything else.) But in 1999, when *Will & Grace* was first introduced to advertisers at the annual upfronts in New York City, the TV landscape was a very different place. "The tagline 18 years ago was 'They're not a couple, they're a couple of friends,'" Kohan recalls. "There was no mention of [sexual orientation]. They were very squirrelly about it." That's because gay and lesbian representation in prime time rested solely on the back of Ellen DeGeneres, who had come out two years prior on her eponymous ABC sitcom to much fanfare—and a decline in ratings. So skittish was NBC over the idea of a gay title character, Mutchnick recalls, that they insisted a straight actor play the part of Will. "They needed to tell themselves that this wasn't really who you were watching," remembers Mutchnick. "You're not really watching a gay guy, America. Don't worry about it. You can enjoy yourself." And McCormack was definitely straight-friendly—almost to a fault. Most of the folks in the initial test audience didn't realize Will preferred guys instead of dolls—despite him talking about Stevie

Nicks' fashion sense and professing his love for George Clooney before the opening credits had even begun rolling. "We told the audience in the first scene that Will had just broken up with a guy," says Mutchnick. "Still, at the end of that first test a lot of people wanted to know why he and Grace don't get together."

"McCormack was perfect for it," says Kohan. "He allayed any fears the executives had that *Will & Grace* would be a queen-fest." But it didn't start out as a ratings-fest, at least for the first two seasons. Though impressive by today's standards, the first 44 episodes of the sitcom averaged an unremarkable 12.5 million viewers as it told bawdy jokes about sex, dating, booze, and illegal immigration. But something made viewers want to check out reruns during the summer of 2000—did viewers finally discover Jack and his glorious jazz hands?—and in 2001, *Will & Grace* closed out its most watched season yet.

The sitcom would last another five seasons, attracting a drag queen's dream team of guest stars, including Madonna, Britney Spears, and Cher, until its finale on May 18, 2006, when more than 18 million viewers watched as Will and Grace drifted apart at the start of the episode before reuniting 20 years later when they discover their children are attending the same college. And Jack—after being briefly married to Beverley Leslie (Leslie Jordan) before the diminutive daddy was blown off his balcony by a strong wind—had moved in with Karen, who hadn't aged a bit.

"I think we were all ready," recalls Hayes. "It felt healthy to leave." But there were still ugly tears after the final taping. "It was rough," remembers Mullally. "I couldn't leave the set, and then I couldn't leave my dressing room. It got to the point where my husband said, 'You have to go.' I told him to just go start the car or something and let me have my time alone! I couldn't say goodbye. It turns out I didn't have to."

SO WILL THE NEW SEASON TAKE PLACE ON A COLLEGE CAMPUS during parents' weekend? Not even close. When *Will & Grace* returns on Sept. 28 at 9 p.m., Will is still living in his NYC apartment with Grace, Jack is still their why-don't-you-ever-knock neighbor,

GETTING INTO THE *WILL & GRACE* GROOVE

SERIES CO-CREATORS DAVID KOHAN AND MAX MUTCHNICK PICK THE BEST EPISODES TO REVISIT BEFORE JUMPING BACK IN

Pilot
Season 1 *Episode 1*
"The introduction to a world of characters that had never been seen on network TV before. Karen's voice wasn't high yet!"

Election
Season 2 *Episode 2*
"Grace runs against Will for co-op board president. Their sneaky fighting at its best."

Das Boob
Season 2 *Episode 3*
"This one illustrates Debra's physical-comedy talents. Also, a historic number of boobs were grabbed."

Whose Mom Is It, Anyway?
Season 2 *Episode 4*
"An episode with the great Debbie Reynolds as Grace's mother. The only thing worse than Grace's mom being a nag is when she's not."

Acting Out
Season 2 *Episode 14*
"The first time *Will & Grace* showed a gay kiss—and a special appearance by Al Roker."

Lows in the Mid-Eighties
Season 3
Episode 8
"An origin story. In this two-parter, we go back in time to see how Will and Grace went from being boyfriend and girlfriend to being best friends."

Alice Doesn't Lisp Here Anymore
Season 3 *Episode 20*
"A classic *W&G* episode with a great *twitht*."

Bed, Bath and Beyond
Season 4 *Episode 7*
"Will, Grace, Jack, and Karen at their comic best together."

Moveable Feast
Season 4 *Episode 9*
"A holiday episode where we see Will, Grace, Jack, and Karen support one another. We also meet everyone's families."

A Chorus Lie
Season 4 *Episode 15*
"*Will & Grace* has a history of great comic turns from A-list actors. This, from Matt Damon, is probably one of the best."

NBCU PHOTO BANK/GETTY IMAGES (4)

and Karen is still swilling martinis in the mansion and berating anyone foolish enough to cross her. Why? Because it's just easier that way.

"That finale caused us a lot of grief," admits Mutchnick. "You write a finale because a show is over and you never think that it's coming back again. If you think in those terms, we wouldn't have written that finale because it's not the story line we would have wanted to follow. What we learned from the election video is how that foursome can still fire on all cylinders. We didn't want to mess with that beautiful chemistry. So we just decided to get rid of the finale episode."

That means no kids and no husbands like Vince and Leo, the spouses of Will and Grace played by Bobby Cannavale and Harry Connick Jr. (though the latter actor will briefly reprise his role in the new season, one of a limited number of guest stars participating in the reboot). The characters will even have their same jobs—Will's still a corporate lawyer, Grace is still an interior designer, Karen's still, well, doing Karen, and Jack has developed a new method for theater performers called "Jackting."

Even without seeing a script, the cast was on board with all of the nonchanges. "If we just picked up where the finale left off, which a lot of people loved and some people didn't love as much, we wouldn't be doing the show," says McCormack. "I think everyone responded to the election video because it looked the same, and the apartment's a big part of that. Why not say these two people are still living together? They've had heartbreaks and they're still together. And rather than making that something to be frowned on, let's celebrate that. What if our best friends from youth really become our rocks in our middle age?" Mullally puts it more bluntly: "We can all suspend our disbelief."

So what will the gang address this time around? Oh, the usual—dating, aging, and politics, but not too much talk about the current administration. "The show's not about who won or who didn't," says Hayes. "It's about the situations that we're in. Everything that happens in the world is ancillary to their lives, but it's not the focal point." There's something else that the cast would prefer not to talk about, at least for now: what happens if this show becomes a hit and NBC starts asking for subsequent seasons. "We're not coming back with the intent to make this an ongoing series," insists Messing. "We all have rich creative lives going on. So the 12-episode order is actually perfect for everyone involved. If it goes beyond that, we'll decide."

Until then, their intent is simple: tell jokes and have a grand old time while doing it. Fortunately, they don't need a script to do that, as evidenced by their effortless rapport at EW's cover shoot.

MESSING I always felt like Karen was living her own life in a parallel universe. You know, just married to Donald Trump and really happy.
McCORMACK Married to Donald Trump and really happy?
MULLALLY Super happy. Are you kidding? They're perfect for each other.
McCORMACK It's a science-fiction show!
HAYES That's what was brilliant about the election video. You had a voice representing everybody in America, or at least large chunks of America, within each character.
MULLALLY Did you call me chunky?
McCORMACK He called you a large chunk of America. That's what he called you.
MULLALLY I don't know that I like that.

Oh, but we do. Welcome back, old friends. ◆

Milo Ventimiglia and Mandy Moore on the *This Is Us* set

BACK TO WO

RK

WHILE MOST OF US ENJOY THE WANING DAYS OF SUMMER, AUGUST MEANS THE CASTS OF OUR FAVORITE FALL SHOWS ARE BACK ON SET. HERE'S A FIRST LOOK BEHIND THE SCENES.

THIS IS US ▲ *PAGE 28*

THE GOOD PLACE *PAGE 29*

SCANDAL *PAGE 30*

THE MINDY PROJECT *PAGE 32*

(*Clockwise from right*) Chrissy Metz, Sterling K. Brown, and Justin Hartley sharing memories from the summer; moments caught backstage with Metz, Ventimiglia, Brown, and Hartley

PREMIERES
9PM
NBC
09/26

THIS IS US

PHOTOGRAPHS CHRIS McPHERSON | DATE JULY 27, 2017 | LOCATION LOS ANGELES

STERLING K. BROWN AND HIS *THIS IS US* costars spent a lot of intense time together last season (see: uh, well, any episode), but if you're worried that they're already sick of each other, maybe this quote will help. "I had a very busy hiatus and was very blessed to be at work pretty much constantly," says Brown, who stepped away from playing Randall to film *Black Panther*, *The Predator*, and *Hotel Artemis*. "But coming back to *This Is Us*, it felt like home. The first day I saw Mandy [Moore] and Milo [Ventimiglia] on set, we got to hug it out.... We've been off doing our own things, but we get back together and it's family, right from jump street." Is Randall's family expanding this year through adoption in season 2? "We pick up with [Randall and Susan Kelechi Watson's Beth] very much in the midst of making that decision—to move forward, not to move forward, how to move forward, if indeed they do," he answers. "They are not on the same page, I can say that much." —*Dan Snierson*

THE GOOD PLACE

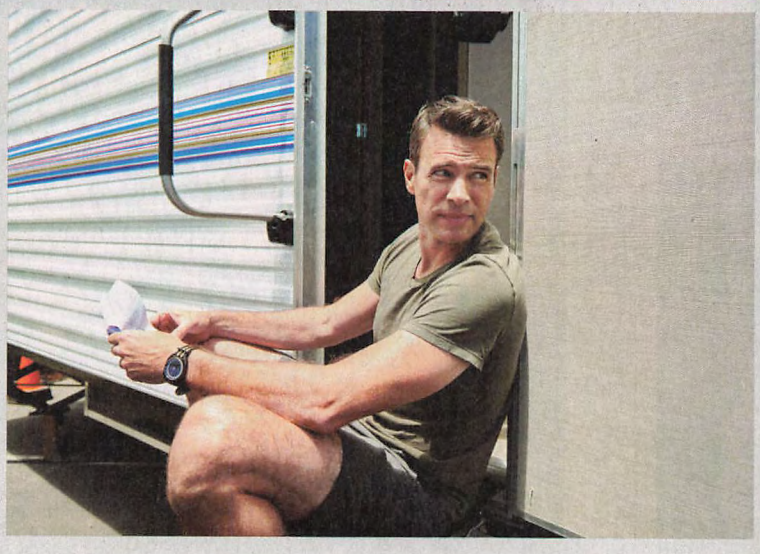
PREMIERES
10PM
NBC

09/20

PHOTOGRAPHS	*DATE*	*LOCATION*
PETER YANG	**JULY 20, 2017**	**LOS ANGELES**

AFTER THE GAME WAS CHANGED in *The Good Place*'s season 1 finale (spoiler: heaven = hell), what was it like for the cast to start a whole new one in season 2? "Getting back to work, truly it felt like everyone was in on the secret," says D'Arcy Carden, who plays the human Siri known as Janet. "Because the twist worked so well, we were very excited. We were like, 'This worked! People went with it!' I think we knew it was going to work, but I don't think we realized it would work as well as it did. I don't know anybody that wasn't shocked." More surprises and jolts are coming when the NBC comedy, which also stars Ted Danson and Kristen Bell, returns this fall. "There's nothing simple when you're in this Good Place," Carden teases, and she cryptically hints at something good to come: "'80s hairdo. And one pierced ear." Get ready to be hooked. Again. —*Dan Snierson*

(*From top*) Kristen Bell and Ted Danson go over scripts for season 2 of *The Good Place*; D'Arcy Carden and William Jackson Harper reunite; Carden, Bell, Danson, Harper, Manny Jacinto, and Jameela Jamil backstage on their show's spoiler-heavy set



(*Clockwise from top left*) Jeff Perry, Bellamy Young, and Kerry Washington en route to set; Young between takes; monitors covering multiple angles of a scene between Scott Foley, Young, and Washington; Young, Foley, and Washington; Olivia Pope's enviable wardrobe; Foley reviewing notes outside his trailer

SCANDAL

PREMIERES
9PM
ABC

10/05

PHOTOGRAPHS
PETER YANG

DATE
JULY 25, 2017

LOCATION
LOS ANGELES

SCANDAL IS NEARING THE END. AFTER six seasons of political intrigue that is—in hindsight—rivaled only by the real-life current administration, the cast of the Shonda Rhimes drama is preparing for the difficult task of saying goodbye. "Everything is bittersweet," says Bellamy Young, whose Mellie Grant will be well into her presidency when the show returns, thanks to a brief time jump. "We're so grateful to be together for another year, but the clock is ticking, so every moment feels precious. We spend a lot of time vowing to be friends forever and making plans together for after we wrap. The show may end, but this family will live on." The question remains whether Mellie will be just as loyal to Olivia (Kerry Washington) this season if she learns it was her chief of staff who revived the lethal black-ops division B613. "I have to think that would spell war between them," Young says. "But for now Mellie respects Liv. She feels almost invincible with Olivia at her side." Almost? "She also knows her every step, every decision, not to mention every hairstyle and every outfit will be scrutinized simply because she's a woman," Young says of her character's historic role. "She doesn't have the luxury of messing up. Too much is at stake." —*Natalie Abrams*

PREMIERES

HULU

09/12

THE **MINDY PROJECT**

PHOTOGRAPHS	*DATE*	*LOCATION*
NATHANIEL WOOD	**JULY 17, 2017**	**LOS ANGELES**

(*From top*) Mindy Kaling on the set of *The Mindy Project*; Garret Dillahunt between scenes; Ike Barinholtz

WITH 107 EPISODES BEHIND HER, MINDY KALING IS SURPRISED by how nostalgic she's already feeling about the 10-episode final season of *The Mindy Project* that she's just begun filming. "I'm not that sentimental of a person, but every day I feel increasingly emotional about the show," Kaling says. Speaking of getting emotional, the first two episodes address that worried look Mindy had right after marrying Ben (Bryan Greenberg) the last time we saw the couple trundling off on the subway. "We unpack that look and how that has metastasized over the course of 10 months," she teases. So will fans see a different side of Mindy as the series comes to an end? "Not only does Mindy evolve, she becomes the person we always hoped she would become, but she's still really fun and opinionated," says Kaling, who is keeping a tight lid on how her recently revealed pregnancy might impact her character's story line. "We want to end the show with you feeling like this was really a journey." —*Ariana Bacle*

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GAMBLIN' MAN

HE'S PLAYED A STRIPPER, A WRESTLER, A COP, AND, IN HIS NEW MOVIE, *LOGAN LUCKY*, A THIEF. BUT CHANNING TATUM IS ONE OF THE ONLY STARS WITHOUT A SUPERHERO OR SCI-FI FRANCHISE. AND THAT'S A RISK.

BY KEVIN P. SULLIVAN *@KPSULL*

WHILE WE'VE ALL BEEN WATCHING, THE RULES OF MOVIE STARDOM HAVE changed. There's an expectation today that to secure a slot on the A list, actors must stake their claim in a cinematic universe like Marvel or *Star Wars*. (According to their agents, both would be ideal.) But in an era of Hollywood when superhero capes and masks are the currency of the global leading man, Channing Tatum donned a thong.

Or in the case of Jimmy Logan, the unemployed construction worker that he plays in Steven Soderbergh's mosquito-bitten heist movie *Logan Lucky* (out Aug. 18), a pair of camo pants and a trucker hat. Logan has been dealt a series of bad hands. His football career and marriage have failed, and he's wound up with a desperate need for cash. Worse, his one-armed brother, Clyde (Adam Driver), insists they've got a family curse hanging over their heads. But Logan is willing to risk it all on a crazy scheme to rob a NASCAR event at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

In a sense, Logan is a fun-house-mirror reflection of the actor playing him. Jimmy is driven in ways that are deeper and more complex than he's comfortable expressing. It's the kind of performance that transcends era, and Tatum, in many ways, is a throwback. While the rest of Hollywood uses franchises as big-budget day jobs—relegating indie films and Oscar bait to nights and weekends—Tatum remains a free agent.

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) SEBASTIAN KIM/AUGUST

(*From left*) Adam Driver and Channing Tatum in *Logan Lucky*; Tatum and Halle Berry in *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*

That would be a precarious place to be if he hadn't been so smart in his hustle. Coming off the box office momentum of the *Jump Street* and *Magic Mike* films, and the prestige of Bennett Miller's Oscar-nominated *Foxcatcher*, Tatum has spent the past two years working with some of the most admired filmmakers in the business. After emerging from under the floorboards of Minnie's Haberdashery in Quentin Tarantino's *The Hateful Eight*, Tatum made a good case for himself as the heir to Gene Kelly in the Coen brothers' *Hail, Caesar!* Now, in addition to *Logan Lucky* this month, he's got the debut of *Comrade Detective*, a Romanian '80s police-procedural spoof that he executive-produced for Amazon, on which he dubs the English-translation voice for the hero cop.

All this is not to say that Tatum, 37, hasn't tried to break into the franchise game. But his more overt attempts at them were busts. The Wachowskis' *Jupiter Ascending* is remembered mainly for GIFs of Eddie Redmayne screaming, and *G.I. Joe: Retaliation* killed off his character, Duke, in the first act. "I've done things where I thought they were going to be financially successful, and they failed," Tatum says. "For me, the only thing I can be super sure of at the end of the day is whether I'm proud that I made the movie, even if it never comes out."

That epiphany came courtesy of fatherhood. Four years ago, his wife, Jenna Dewan-Tatum, gave birth to their daughter, Everly. She became, in essence, a baby barometer for his career. "When you start worrying about what the outcome is more than what you're making, it's really tough to make something that is pure," he says. "At the end of my life, when I have to look at my daughter in the face and go, 'Daddy took time out of our lives, out of our relationship, to go do something,' it better be worth it. It better not just be for money."

The money—we're talking about those franchise checks—could be coming anyway. Tatum's efforts to make a movie centered around the X-Men character Gambit have resulted in a series of false starts, but the project is still in play (see sidebar), and later this year, he'll portray Taron Egerton's American bourbon-distilling counterpart in *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*. If the odds are with him—who knows?—a spin-off isn't out of the realm of the possible.

In the meantime, Soderbergh alone has kept him plenty busy. Tatum and the *Ocean's Eleven* filmmaker met on the set of the 2011 Gina Carano action vehicle, *Haywire*. Soderbergh sparked to Tatum when the actor suggested that his character, a black-ops agent, fake a hangover to lull his former partner (Carano) into a false sense of security before attacking her.

"You have to make a determination when you start to make your way into this business about what version of Hollywood you want to participate in and what kind of people you want to connect yourself to and spend time with," Soderbergh says. "You spend your life putting a band together. Chan was immediately someone where I thought, 'Well, he needs to be in the band.'" Six years—and four more Soderbergh projects—later, the band is still jamming. And Tatum is still marching to his own beat. ♠

WHAT'S THE *GAMBIT* HOLDUP?

The X-Men solo film, starring Tatum as the con-man mutant, is already a year late. Here's why.

Since 2014, Channing Tatum has been attached to a Gambit stand-alone film, an X-Men spin-off featuring the card-throwing mutant with a Cajun accent. Yet after losing two directors—Rupert Wyatt (*Rise of the Planet of the Apes*) and Doug Liman (*The Bourne Identity*)—the Fox project's future is uncertain. Tatum remains committed. "What I want to be able to do with that character is really rad," he says. "I wish that I could almost not be me and [star in] *Gambit* [as an] unknown. I wish that I didn't have all of the baggage that Chan comes with."

(THIS SPREAD) *LOGAN LUCKY*: CLAUDETTE BARIUS/FINGERPRINT RELEASING/BLEECKER STREET; *KINGSMEN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE*: GILES KEYTE/FOX; *GAMBIT*: MARVEL

Movies

EDITED BY **KEVIN P. SULLIVAN** @KPSull

▲ Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen

Wind River

STARRING	DIRECTED BY
Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen, Jon Bernthal, Gil Birmingham	Taylor Sheridan

RATING	LENGTH	REVIEW BY
R	1 hr., 47 mins.	Leah Greenblatt @*Leahbats*

EVEN IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO WIND RIVER, YOU'LL probably recognize it when you see it: a land that exists not just in the real world but also as a sort of mythical idea of the American West—a vast, untamable territory where men are men, wolves roam free, and anyone asking for almond milk in their coffee will be swiftly returned to the soft place they came from.

These hardscrabble Wyoming plains are home turf to a guy like Cory Lambert (Jeremy Renner), with his battered Stetson and 50-yard squint—though technically his job as a game tracker is to make sure all those wolves (and mountain lions and bears) don't run *too* free. His duties protecting the local livestock are what lead him to a more unnatural predator: the unseen man or beast a panicked teenage girl (Kelsey Asbille) from the nearby reservation is shown fleeing in the movie's unnerving opening scene. Whatever it is, it's enough to make her stagger on in bitter subzero temperatures, barefoot and terrified, until the cold finally overtakes her.

Weather may be her official cause of death, but there are enough signs of foul play to call in the FBI, which arrives in the rookie form of Agent Jane Banner (Elizabeth Olsen). A Florida native stationed in Las Vegas, she's literally a fish out of Fort

WIND RIVER: FRED HAYES/THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY; *STEP*: FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

THE 22-WORD REVIEW

Step This documentary study of an all-girls high school in Baltimore is like *Hoop Dreams* for dance teams: inspiring, unsparing, and

▷ **REEL NEWS**

Come On, Barbie, Let's Go Party Anne Hathaway is in talks to play the titular blonde in the *Barbie* movie. •

Return to Themyscira *Wonder Woman 2*, starring Gal Gadot, has set a Dec. 13, 2019, release date.

Lauderdale, drastically ill-equipped for the permafrost chill. (While she is lent a snowsuit on arrival, warm does not describe her welcome.) Jane is smart enough, at least, to know she'll need help, and Cory emerges as the kindest, most capable option. He's familiar with the land and friends with the dead girl's father (Gil Birmingham, one of several standout indigenous actors in the cast). And he's got his own reasons for signing on; he too once lost a daughter. Now all he has is a bare bachelor's cabin, occasional custody of his son, and a few terse exchanges with the Native ex-wife (Julia Jones) whose grief is clearly still as raw as his own.

Anyone searching for a common thread in writer-director Taylor Sheridan's work won't have to look far: He's already earned wide acclaim for penning 2015's *Sicario* and last year's Oscar-nominated *Hell or High Water*, and for his role as a police chief on *Sons of Anarchy*—all projects grounded in a kind of true, taciturn grit. *Wind* carries the unavoidable whiff of all the flinty-eyed Westerns that came before, from John Ford to the Coen brothers, even if the script's late, vicious swerve into graphic violence feels more like Tarantino. Cory is undeniably an archetype, part Marlboro man, part Cormac McCarthy cowboy mystic. Still, Renner gives his pain layers and imbues the story—based on real events—with the emotional heft it deserves. (Sheridan is less sure-handed with female characters; like Emily Blunt in *Sicario*, Olsen's agent serves the law with a naïveté that veers near fatal.) For all its well-worn outlines, the narrative exerts its own fierce, clenched-jaw grip: a cautionary campfire tale that reminds us it's not merely the end that matters, it's the style and skill of the telling. **B+**

unforgettable. **A** —*Leah Greenblatt*

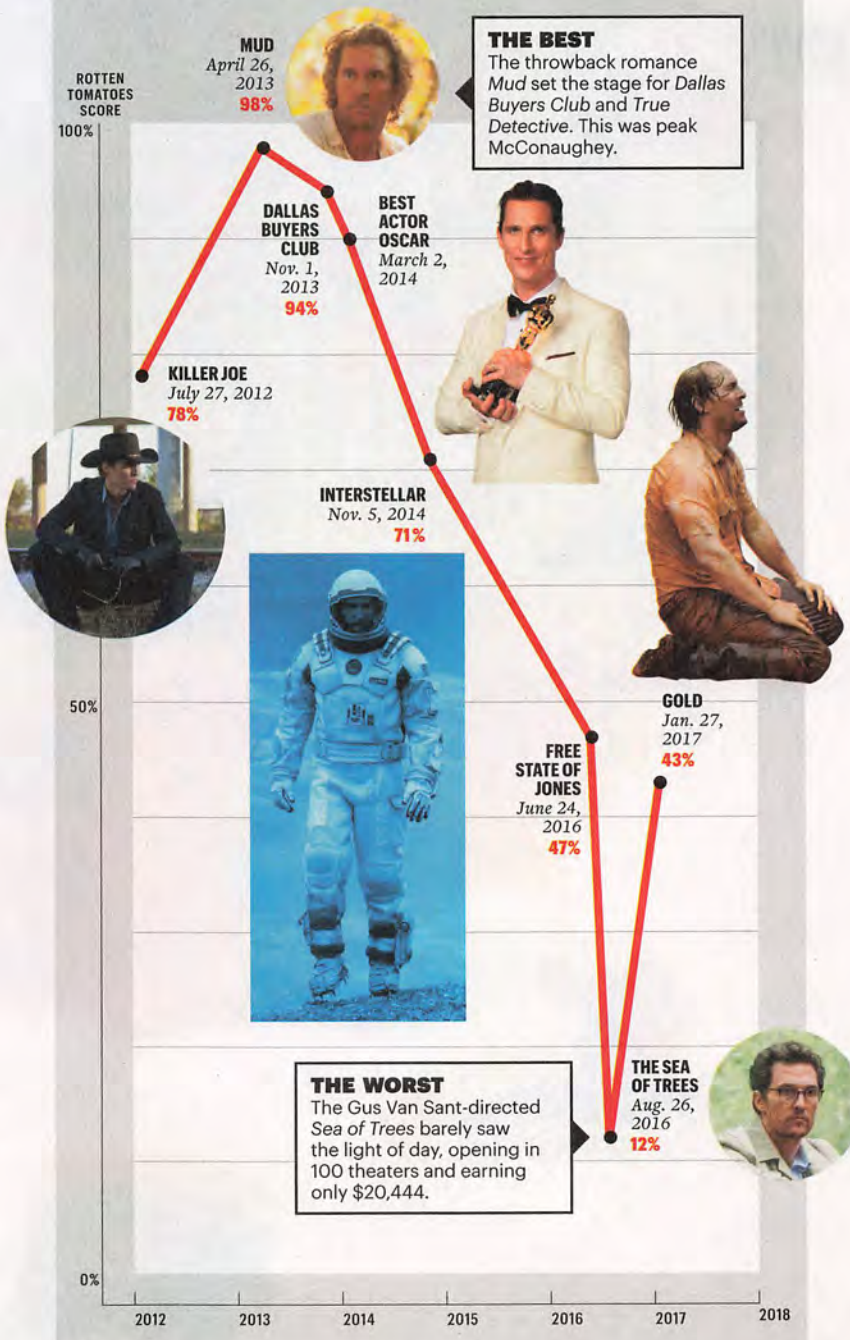
THE DARK TOWER: ILZE KITSHOFF/SONY PICTURES; *KILLER JOE*: SKIP BOLEN/LD ENTERTAINMENT; *MUD*: JAMES BRIDGES/ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS; MCCONAUGHEY: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; *INTERSTELLAR*: MELINDA SUE GORDON/PARAMOUNT; *THE SEA OF TREES*: A24/PHOTOFEST; *GOLD*: PATRICK BROWN/WEINSTEIN CO.

IN MEMORIAM | 2012-2017

THE McCONAISSANCE

Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey in *The Dark Tower*

More than three years after winning an Oscar with a career 180, **Matthew McConaughey** *seems to have lost his magic touch. Up next is* The Dark Tower *(out Aug. 4), which didn't screen in time for review—a bad omen. Here's how his films have fared on* **Rotten Tomatoes**, *before and after his Oscar.*



THE UNITED STATES

OF MOVIES

Movies have touched almost every aspect of the American experience—and just about every square inch of land. EW picks the one film that best captures the spirit and story of each state.

BY EW STAFF

ILLUSTRATION BY PETER OUMANSKI

ALABAMA
Selma *2014*

Ava DuVernay's drama about Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) and his famed protest march uses historic locations, including the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

ALASKA
Into the Wild *2007*

Christopher McCandless (Emile Hirsch) abandons his urban life for one in nature—with tragic results. The beautiful, brutal Alaskan landscape takes center stage.

ARIZONA
Raising Arizona *1987*

The Coen brothers' kidnapping comedy transforms the Southwestern desert into a cartoonish world of bizarre dialects, manic chases, and a bounty hunter from hell.

ARKANSAS
True Grit *1969*

This Western, partially set in Fort Smith, follows crotchety U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn (John Wayne) and headstrong teenager Mattie Ross (Kim Darby) as they pursue her father's killer.

CALIFORNIA
Chinatown *1974*

In Roman Polanski's inky noir, Jack Nicholson investigates dark deeds and darker secrets in 1930s Los Angeles. A hard-boiled masterpiece.

COLORADO
Misery *1990*

A psychotic fan (Kathy Bates) nurses an injured novelist (James Caan) in the snowy confines and rural disquiet of her Rocky Mountains home.

CONNECTICUT
The Ice Storm *1997*

Ang Lee's glimpse into the bleak heart of WASPs in moneyed Fairfield County reveals a spiritual funk that no amount of Scotch, self-help, or key parties can cure.

DELAWARE
Fight Club *1999*

Sometimes called "the Chemical Capital of the World," Wilmington (unnamed in the film) provides the setting for this antisocial opera that rhapsodizes about explosive violence and soap products.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
All the President's Men *1976*

Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman play *Washington Post* muckrakers Woodward and Bernstein in this riveting procedural about speaking truth to power.

FLORIDA
Scarface *1983*

Say hello to director Brian De Palma's Miami-set tale of gangsters and cocaine (and cocaine). Al Pacino stars as Cuban refugee–turned–criminal overlord Tony Montana.

GEORGIA
Deliverance *1972*

More than just a nightmare of backwoods banjo players, this film suggests that within every upright Atlanta businessman hides a wild Appalachian hunter.

HAWAII
Lilo & Stitch *2002*

An alien crash-lands on rainy Kauai and learns valuable lessons about *ohana* and Elvis in a film that explores the meaning of sisterhood.

IDAHO
Napoleon Dynamite *2004*

This cult classic is so Idaho, it sparked a flippin' festival there, complete with tetherball and a tater-tot-eating contest.

ILLINOIS
The Blues Brothers *1980*

John Belushi and Dan Aykroyd bring the cool (and the shades) as bluesmen who burn serious rubber around the Prairie State to save their old orphanage.

INDIANA
Breaking Away *1979*

Beneath the surface of this tale of a blue-collar teen and his dream of being a world-class cyclist beats the heart of a life-affirming epic about us versus them.

IOWA
Field of Dreams *1989*

When a farmer (Kevin Costner) replaces his cornfield with a baseball diamond, the town assumes he's lost his mind. But it tees up a tearjerker about fathers, sons, and the magic of the game.

KANSAS
The Wizard of Oz *1939*

Dorothy Gale might go over the rainbow but she discovers that there's no place like the Sunflower State.

KENTUCKY
Coal Miner's Daughter *1980*

This rags-to-riches biopic tracks how country-music legend Loretta Lynn (Sissy Spacek) became the voice of her ol' Kentucky home.

LOUISIANA
A Streetcar Named Desire *1951*

New Orleans is a city eternally preserved in the liquidy black-and-white lust of Tennessee Williams' pinnacle drama.

MAINE
The Cider House Rules *1999*

Lasse Hallström directs the John Irving novel, where "princes of Maine and kings of New England" come of age in apple orchards beneath Yankee blue skies.

MARYLAND
Hairspray *2007*

Perky, plus-size Tracy Turnblad (Nikki Blonsky) fights for acceptance (and dance fame) in this song-filled redo of John Waters' 1988 homage to his beloved Baltimore.

MASSACHUSETTS
The Departed *2006*

Martin Scorsese's Oscar winner dives into Boston's underbelly. Matt Damon stars as a police department mole, Leonardo DiCaprio as a cop undercover in the local Mob.

MICHIGAN
Dreamgirls *2006*

Set against Detroit's Motown scene, this adaptation of the Broadway musical follows the Dreams as they navigate the highs and lows of stardom.

MINNESOTA
Fargo *1996*

Despite bearing the name of a North Dakota city, the Coen brothers' northerly noir is quirky Minnesota to its core. Yah.

MISSISSIPPI
In the Heat of the Night *1967*

Norman Jewison's tinderbox Best Picture winner centers on a black Northern police detective (Sidney Poitier) investigating a murder in Sparta, Miss.

MISSOURI
Gone Girl *2014*

David Fincher's exquisite adaptation of Gillian Flynn's thriller captures a landscape so expansive, a woman could vanish into it.

RAISING ARIZONA, CHINATOWN, LILO & STITCH, COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER, IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT: PHOTOFEST (5); SELMA: ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA/PARAMOUNT; BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN: KIMBERLY FRENCH/FOCUS FEATURES; DREAMGIRLS: DAVID JAMES/PARAMOUNT

MONTANA
A River Runs Through It *1992*

Director Robert Redford makes the big skies and clear waters of 1920s Missoula, Mont., every bit as striking as a young Brad Pitt.

NEBRASKA
Nebraska *2013*

A delusional father, a depressive son, a road trip to Lincoln: What could go wrong? Alexander Payne's meditation on the past offers an unlikely vision for the future.

NEVADA
The Hangover *2009*

What happens in Vegas doesn't stay in Vegas after three friends awake with no memory of the world's wildest bachelor party.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Our Town *1940*

The film of Thornton Wilder's American classic visits Grovers Corners, where a young couple and their families face love, life, and loss.

NEW JERSEY
Garden State *2004*

No mobsters or housewives here: South Orange son Zach Braff showcases Joisey's eclectic spirit in this offbeat comedy about an actor's unconventional homecoming.

NEW MEXICO
Gas Food Lodging *1992*

The dusty streets and striated skies of a small desert town provide the backdrop for this tale of two lonely girls and their waitress mother.

NEW YORK
Do the Right Thing *1989*

On a hot day in Brooklyn, tensions simmer, boil, and explode. Spike Lee's masterpiece is a panoramic portrait of New York City at its best and worst: every neighborhood a city, every block a universe.

NORTH CAROLINA
Junebug *2005*

This beguiling drama glows with precise local details and mysterious characters, and Amy Adams' gentle star-making performance.

NORTH DAKOTA
Three Faces West *1940*

This Dust Bowl saga was overshadowed by *The Grapes of Wrath*, but star John Wayne, playing a proud farmer, delivers flag-waving sermons worthy of this state.

OHIO
Heathers *1989*

From slushies at the convenience store to explosives in the school gym, this jet-black comedy exposes the horror lurking under the surface of suburban Sherwood.

OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma! *1955*

Take a ride in your surrey with the fringe on top for this adaptation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1943 musical, featuring the catchiest anthem for a state ever written.

OREGON
Stand by Me *1986*

The Stephen King story was set in Maine, but Rob Reiner's adventure about four friends searching for a dead body finds wonder in Oregon's green woods and wild rivers.

PENNSYLVANIA
Rocky *1976*

Few visitors can resist sprinting up the 72 steps outside the Philadelphia Museum of Art because of Sylvester Stallone's testament to a blue-collar state that stands tall.

RHODE ISLAND
The Witches of Eastwick *1987*

Director George Miller brings demented mayhem to RI's pastoral estates and historic churches—with an assist from a devilish Jack Nicholson.

SOUTH CAROLINA
The Big Chill *1983*

In Lawrence Kasdan's baby-boomer classic, seven college friends reunite in an antebellum mansion for a funeral, and to examine what happened to their 1960s ideals.

SOUTH DAKOTA
Badlands *1973*

Terrence Malick's films are steeped in nature, telling stories born from the land. The same is true of his first film: a hazy, bleak rehashing of the American dream.

TENNESSEE
Nashville *1975*

In his epic latticework set in the state's capital, director Robert Altman celebrates Nashville as the essence of America's thumping, generous, crazy heart.

TEXAS
Giant *1956*

As big and wide as the state it portrays, George Stevens' generation-spanning family saga strides across a Lone Star landscape of cattle barons and oil tycoons.

UTAH
127 Hours *2010*

Amid a topography so gorgeously spooky and remote it might as well be Mars, Aron Ralston (James Franco) must save himself when his arm is trapped by a boulder—a testament to nerve and endurance.

VERMONT
Dead Poets Society *1989*

Although shot in Delaware, the Robin Williams gem about a passionate teacher at a prestigious prep school captures the rebellious nature of this New England state.

VIRGINIA
Shenandoah *1965*

Jimmy Stewart stars as a widower who wants nothing to do with the Civil War, until his son is apprehended by Union troops and he's forced to battle his conscience.

WASHINGTON
Twilight *2008*

The supernatural teen romance put the town of Forks on the map. Under perpetually gloomy Pacific Northwest skies, Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) finds forbidden love with gentleman vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson).

WEST VIRGINIA
October Sky *1999*

You can almost taste the coal dust in this story of future NASA engineer Homer Hickam Jr. (Jake Gyllenhaal), who grew up in a mining town in the state's lower cradle—and discovered the only way out was up.

WISCONSIN
Bridesmaids *2011*

Friendships are tested when down-on-her-luck Milwaukee baker Annie (Kristen Wiig) is drafted to be the maid of honor for lifelong bestie Lillian (Maya Rudolph). Cue the Wilson Phillips.

WYOMING
Brokeback Mountain *2005*

Director Ang Lee's gut-wrenching love story may have been shot in the towering Canadian Rockies, but the rugged hearts of its heroes—two ranch hands (Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal) who embark on a doomed romance—are pure Wyoming.

Streaming

THE STANDOUT TITLES COMING (AND GOING) IN AUGUST | **BY SHIRLEY LI** @shirklesxp

6/

1/

2/

3/

8/

WE GAVE IT AN **A**

1 **NETFLIX**

THE GOOD PLACE

SEASON 1

From fro-yo(?) to flying lessons(!), NBC's comedy about a do-badder (Kristen Bell) who ends up in an afterlife created by Ted Danson's kooky architect is packed with surprises.

TV | **AUG. 29**

2 **HBO NOW**

FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

This Harry Potter spin-off starring Eddie Redmayne as a wizard who loses his creatures in 1920s New York is—dare we say it?—*magical*.

MOVIES | **AUG. 12**

3 **HBO NOW**

JACKIE

Natalie Portman shines as the First Lady of Camelot in this hypnotic, gorgeously filmed snapshot of her life after JFK's murder.

MOVIES | **AUG. 19**

4 **HULU**

BETTER THINGS

SEASON 1

FX's Emmy-nominated dramedy about a divorcée (Pamela Adlon) raising three daughters charms with its risqué yet bittersweet humor about the daily travails of being a single mom.

BEST EPISODE > "Alarms" *(EP. 6)* Adlon's Sam deals with sexism on the set of a terrible TV pilot.

TV | **AUG. 15**

5 **SHOWTIME**

THE BABADOOK

Don't be fooled by the childish title; this psycho-thriller about a troubled widow will terrify adults and kids alike.

MOVIES | **STREAMING NOW**

6 **NETFLIX**

THE MATRIX TRILOGY

Never saw the Wachowskis' sci-fi magnum opus? You're in luck: Follow the white rabbit...and don't get lost.

MOVIES | **STREAMING NOW**

7 **NETFLIX**

ONCE UPON A TIME

SEASON 6

Jennifer Morrison's Emma makes her swan song—and gets a fairy-tale ending.

TV | **AUG. 25**

8 **SHOWTIME**

HELL OR HIGH WATER

Two desperate brothers. Two Texas Rangers. The Oscar-nominated Western is both a pulse-pounding cat-and-mouse chase and proof that Chris Pine is the best Chris.

MOVIES | **AUG. 5**

9 **NETFLIX**

PRACTICAL MAGIC

Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock play sibling witches battling a family curse. What more could you want?

MOVIES | **STREAMING NOW**

10 **AMAZON PRIME**

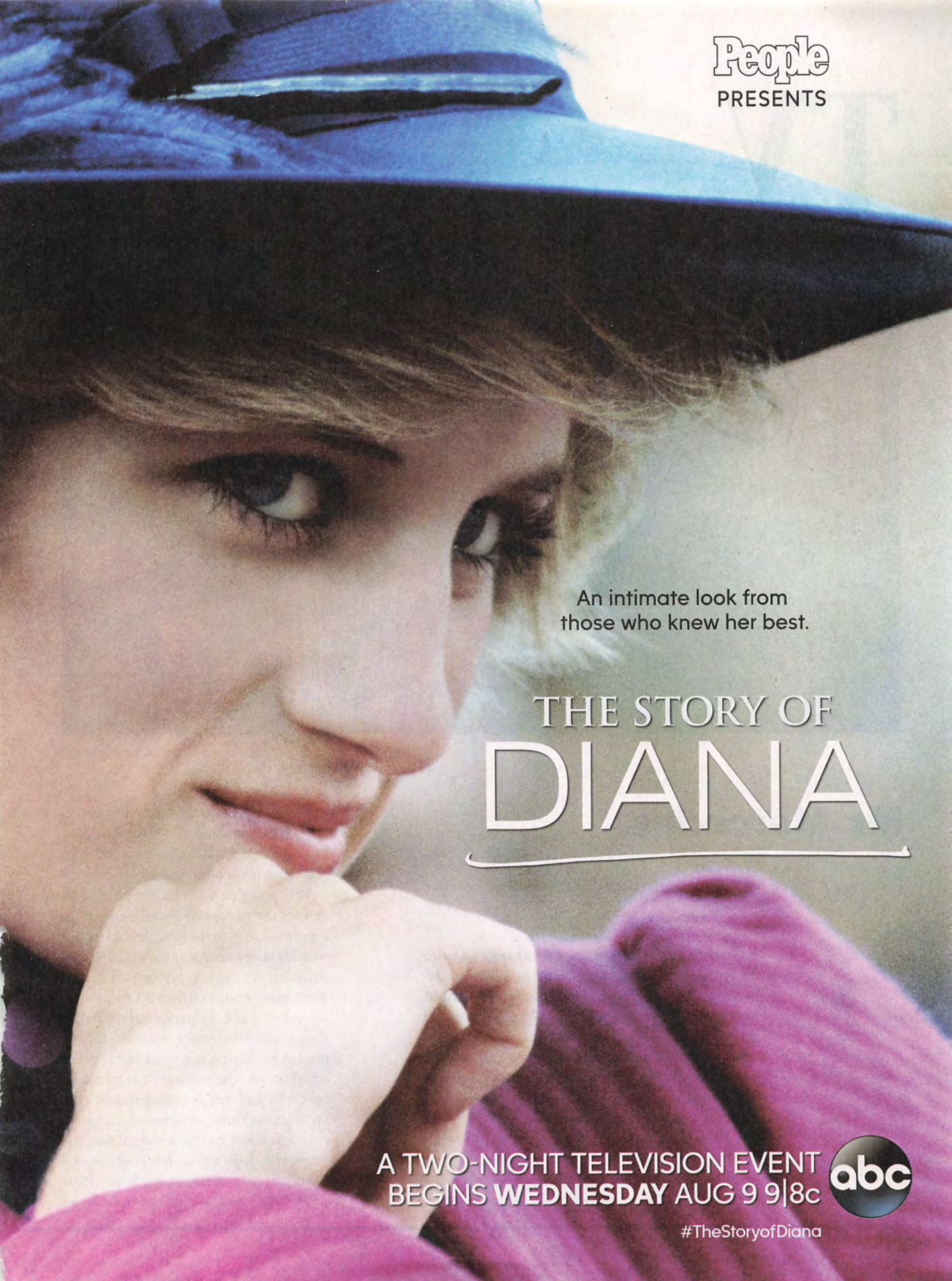
FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS

The dotty heiress and wannabe (yet tone-deaf) singer is pitch-perfectly captured by Meryl Streep in this sweet, bubbly biopic. Invest in tissues—and in earplugs!

MOVIES | **AUG. 27**

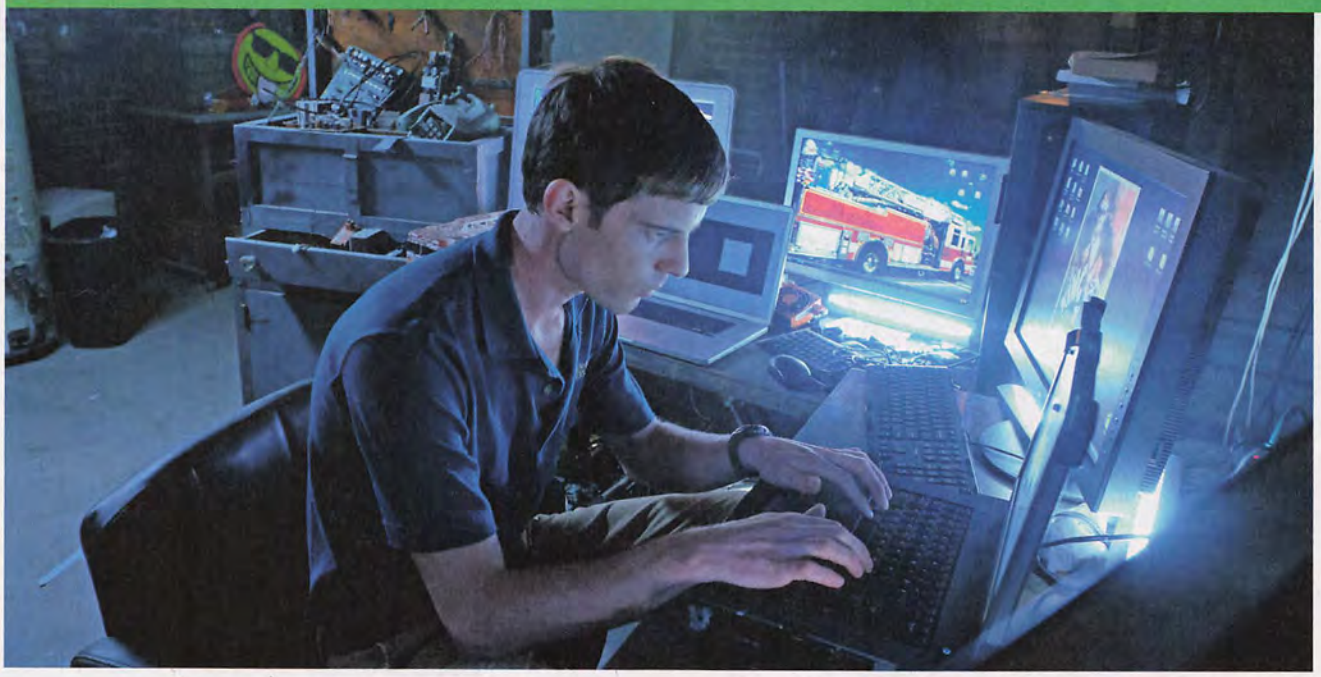
LAST CALL TO WATCH... ***Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*** **(Showtime)** 8.18 | ***Blue Velvet*** **(Hulu)** 8.31 | ***Jaws*** **(Starz)** 8.31

THE MATRIX RELOADED: JASIN BOLAND/WARNER BROS.; JACKIE: PABLO LARRAINS/FOX SEARCHLIGHT; THE GOOD PLACE: JUSTIN LUBIN/NBC; FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM: JAAP BUITENDIJK/WARNER BROS.; HELL OR HIGH WATER: LOREY SEBASTIAN; FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS: NICK WALL/PARAMOUNT


People
PRESENTS
An intimate look from
those who knew her best.
THE STORY OF
DIANA
A TWO-NIGHT TELEVISION EVENT
BEGINS WEDNESDAY AUG 9 9|8c
abc
#TheStoryofDiana

TV

EDITED BY **AMY WILKINSON** @amymwilk



▲ Harry Treadaway

Mr. Mercedes

DATE	TIME	NETWORK	REVIEW BY
Debuts Aug. 9	8 p.m.	AT&T Audience Network	Jeff Jensen @*EWDocJensen*

***MR. MERCEDES* BEGINS WITH A MONSTROUS ACT OF** mass murder. A warped soul wearing a clown mask mows down 16 people by driving a car through a crowd. Bones snap. Blood gushes. We get close-ups of people getting trampled. The carnage is sick, indulgent, and not surprising: This is a Stephen King creepshow, after all. But what sticks with you isn't the horror, it's the humanity. The violence is preceded by a long sequence that dotes on the victims—unemployed; waiting in line at a job fair—and their varied responses to a single mom with an ill infant. One man helps her, one man resents her, and this micro-portrait of fraught community frames everything that follows. When the maniac in the luxury sedan runs them down, you hurt for them because you know them, and you wonder if *Mr. Mercedes* has more on its mind than hit-and-run schlock shocks.

This prologue sums up the power and flaws of the 10-episode limited series from superproducer David E. Kelley. As he did with his buzzy adaptation of *Big Little Lies*, Kelley turns a murder mystery into a satire about gender norms. Here, the focus is on masculinity, and the perspective is pulpy: King's 2014 novel was a departure for the prodigious scribe, a stab at hard-boiled crime fiction. The result isn't as transcendent as *Big Little Lies*, but *Mr. Mercedes* sneaks up on you and makes an emotional impact.

Unless Kelley has made radical final-act changes to King's plot, *Mr. Mercedes* is a whydunit, not a whodunit, much like USA's thriller *The Sinner*. You quickly understand

AT&T AUDIENCE NETWORK

▷ LOGLINES

***Total Request* Revive** MTV is bringing back the beloved music-video show in October. • ***Queen Sugar's* Reign Continues** OWN has renewed the Southern family drama for a third season.

the titular nut is Brady Hartsfield (Harry Treadaway), a tech savant who works at an electronics store and drives an ice cream truck on the side. He lives with his deadbeat alcoholic mom (Kelly Lynch) in his childhood home, downstairs in a Batcave basement radioactive with computers. Issues? Yeah, a few. Absent father. Incest. Dead-sibling grief. They've left him profoundly impotent and feeling powerless. So one dark night a decade ago, Brady stole a Benz and went wild on the fellow down-and-outs of his Ohio town. He was never caught. And now, the high from that psychotic joyride has finally begun to fade.

Fixated on this cold case is retired cop Bill Hodges, a boozy man-bear played by Brendan Gleeson. "Mr. Mercedes" was Bill's white whale, and when Brady begins sending him lurid emails—part of a larger stalking and baiting of the man who once chased him—Hodges re-commits to catching him. Their twisted dance blossoms into a meditation on where men find their meaning and the collateral damage they accrue in their flailing, framed by themes of work, sex, and age. Bill's equipment doesn't work like it used to. That's hard on a guy, you know.

The series' first few hours are dominated by setup that traps Brady the Bad Geek and Bill the Obsessed Detective in their clichés. But Treadaway and Gleeson are riveting and get better as the writing gets more thoughtful and the scope expands; the show is about how we take care of each other in a transitional economy and have/have-not society. Costar Holland Taylor is excellent as Bill's sexually frank widow neighbor, as is Breeda Wool (*UnREAL*) as Brady's lesbian co-worker, struggling to stay tough in an oppressive culture. Episode 4—humane, chilling, and written by ace crime novelist Dennis Lehane—shifts the series into a higher gear. *Mr. Mercedes* isn't prestige-class pulp, but it's a quality star vehicle fueled with enough poignancy to make it worth the ride. **B**

THIS SHOW CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

- PS "PET SEMATARY"
- IM INCONTINENCE MEDICINE
- NS NUDE SELFIES
- CCM CREEPY CLOWN MASK

RECOMMENDED LISTENING

A Podcast for Every Season

Hiatuses are hard. And if you've found yourself nursing a *Westworld*-size hole in your heart, we may just have the antidote. Plug in your earbuds and download these like-minded podcasts that channel your favorite TV shows (no remote required). BY CHANCELLOR AGARD

IF YOU'RE MISSING UnREAL | **DOWNLOAD** Ben and Ashley I Almost Famous

The Lifetime drama won't be back until 2018, so sate your craving for reality TV intrigue with *Bachelor* alums Ben Higgins and Ashley Iaconetti, who break down eps of the ABC series and chat up past contestants.

IF YOU'RE MISSING Westworld | **DOWNLOAD** Mysteries Abound

Haven't truly had your mind blown since the season finale of HBO's twisty sci-fi show? Consider this series about unexplained phenomena. (Sample topics: the Bermuda Triangle and White House hauntings!)

IF YOU'RE MISSING Riverdale | **DOWNLOAD** Rookie

For those times when star Camila Mendes' too-cute Insta feed isn't enough, fire up this pod hosted by Tavi Gevinson that explores the "human experience through the teenage lens" with notable guests like Lorde and author Roxane Gay.

IF YOU'RE MISSING The Crown | **DOWNLOAD** Revolutions

From the fall of Charles I of England to the battles for independence in South America, *Revolutions* chronicles history's greatest revolutions (duh!) and revisits what happened to the monarchs who came before Claire Foy's Queen Elizabeth II.

IF YOU'RE MISSING Empire | **DOWNLOAD** Mogul: The Life and Death of Chris Lighty

Thirsty for music-industry tea? Check out this compelling biographical miniseries about legendary hip-hop exec Chris Lighty, who managed Missy Elliott, Busta Rhymes, and more.

▼ Jonathan Tucker, Nick Jonas, and Frank Grillo

SERIES FINALE
POSTMORTEM

KINGDOM'S KNOCKOUT

The AT&T Audience Network series packed quite a punch in its final rounds, killing off **Nick Jonas**' character Nate Kulina in brutal fashion. The 24-year-old actor and the show's creator, Byron Balasco, talk exclusively to EW about that tragic end. **BY SAMANTHA HIGHFILL**

For three seasons, *Kingdom* told the story of Alvey Kulina (Frank Grillo), an MMA fighter and coach whose gym was the focal point for every character on the rugged, violence-prone drama. But Alvey's greatest struggle was being a father to Jay (Jonathan Tucker) and Nate (Nick Jonas)—a struggle that culminated in him losing his younger son.

In the show's penultimate episode, Nate finally came out to his father, but when Alvey reacted to his son's revelation with anger, it launched a chain of events that ended with a very upset Nate fighting a bouncer and getting shot. The series finale revealed that Nate did indeed die from his gunshot wounds. "It was important that it felt like one of these freak accidents or moments of violence that Nate has had in his history where the consequences become very real very fast," Jonas tells EW. Adds show creator Byron Balasco: "I wanted there to be real consequences for Alvey in terms of the mistakes he made as a father and as a man. You have to be mindful of the way you treat the ones you love because you do not always get a chance to go back later and fix it."

The decision to kill Nate came about when Balasco was mapping out the third season (which at the time he didn't realize would be the series' last). When he brought the idea to Jonas, the actor says he knew it was the type of story that would "elevate everything" on the show. All that was left at that point was figuring out how the death would happen, and ultimately Balasco decided to tie it to the moment Nate finally told his father the truth to underscore that they had never learned how to communicate with each other. "I wanted a tumbling of emotions that gathers momentum where things get away from the control of our characters," Balasco says. "I didn't want his death to be cloaked in any kind of shame. It's not about Nate being gay; it's more about the inability of these two men to understand each other and to be honest with how they truly feel about each other."

The aftermath of Nate's death resulted in the show's most emotional hour, and, fittingly, its last. "The last shot, where we're tracking Alvey and then we're on his face, I said, 'This really feels like we might've just ended the series,'" Balasco says. "I don't know that I would've ended it any other way, to be honest. The only regret about us not coming back, besides loving making the show, is that I want people to know the Kulinas are surviving out there in the world one way or another."

▶ Nick Jonas

AT&T AUDIENCE/ENDEMOL SHINE STUDIO (2)

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SMOKELESS TOBACCO

What to Watch

A DAY-TO-DAY GUIDE TO NOTABLE PROGRAMS* **BY RAY RAHMAN @RayRahman**

MUST WATCH OF THE WEEK

Prince Charles and Princess Diana

THE STORY OF DIANA

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 9 | 9–11PM | ABC

Aug. 31 will mark the 20th anniversary of Princess Diana's tragic death, and EW parent company Time Inc. has partnered with ABC to produce a two-night event that looks back at her life. (The second half of the special will air Thursday evening.) The documentary chronicles the royal's journey, from her younger days growing up in an aristocratic family to the media frenzy that surrounded her during her marriage to and scandalous divorce from Prince Charles to her shocking death. With stunning archival footage and reams of insight from journalists and historians (not to mention her younger brother, Charles Spencer), *The Story of Diana* artfully brings Di's highs and lows to life without ever crossing over into icky tabloid territory. "Her death happened right in the middle of her story," says consulting producer Michelle Tauber, who also serves as the royals editor for EW sister publication *People*. "She was just 36, and she changed celebrity culture forever."

MONDAY AUGUST 7

American Ninja Warrior

8–10PM | NBC

The show heads to Daytona Beach, where the ninjas will work on their tans.

Season Finale
The Bachelorette

8–10PM | ABC

Who will get Rachel's final rose? Will the loser be the next Bachelor? How much rosé will your friends spill on your couch? All this and more will be revealed tonight!

So You Think You Can Dance

8–10PM | FOX

The top 10 dancers are announced, and EW can confirm that Sean Spicer won't be one of them.

SOAP OPERA

Brillo Box (3¢ Off)

10–10:40PM | HBO

The doc explores the art market via one family's history with Andy Warhol's Brillo sculptures. Watch it over a can of Campbell's soup?

TUESDAY AUGUST 8

Season Premiere
Difficult People

STREAMING | HULU

Like so many things, the snarky comedy just couldn't escape politics this season. "We wrote it during the election, and we were pretty angry," says co-creator Julie Klausner. So they decided not only to poke fun at VP Mike Pence but also to make underrepresented people visible on TV. See: a number of trans actresses in a story line inspired by costar Shakina Nayfack's life. "We want to be the show that, just looking at it, you see a lot of what Trump supporters really hate," says Klausner, who hopes the show "gives people a sense of validation that they're not alone." *—Chancellor Agard*

THE STORY OF DIANA: TIM GRAHAM/GETTY IMAGES; DIFFICULT PEOPLE: BARBARA NITKE/HULU; WARHOL: BOB THOMAS/GETTY IMAGES; ARTWORK: CATE GILLON/GETTY IMAGES

*TIMES ARE EASTERN DAYLIGHT AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9

Series Debut

▸ Swedish Dicks

8–10PM | POP

Listen, I know that every network is eager to jump on the scripted-programming train these days, and oddball comedies are an easy way to earn some cred. But at some point you've got to wonder: Who's going to watch all these shows? The question came to my mind while watching *Swedish Dicks*, a barely funny off-kilter comedy about a pair of second-rate Swedish-born private detectives in L.A. Peter Stormare, whom Coen-brothers fans will recognize from *The Big Lebowski* and *Fargo*, co-created and stars on the show, while Keanu Reeves and Traci Lords have recurring side parts. None of them are bad on it, but none of them offer a compelling enough reason to fit this into your schedule. C+

THURSDAY AUGUST 10

Season Premiere

▸ Weekend Update: Summer Edition

9–9:30PM | NBC

Saturday Night Live proper won't be back for another month or two, but in the meantime Colin Jost and Michael Che will return early to help us navigate (or, more accurately, mock) the tumultuous daily developments coming out of Washington, D.C. And if the show's recent ratings trend is any indication, we *really* need their help. "*SNL* is having its best season in a quarter of a century—how many shows can say that?!" NBC Entertainment chairman Robert Greenblatt crowed in a release. "So we didn't want them to take the summer off." Our only concern: Is once a week enough in news-rich times like these? This show should probably air once an *hour*.

▸ Boy Band

8–9PM | ABC

In a twist, the contestants perform songs by popular female artists. If any of them do a Robyn song, they'll be crowned the winners to *our* hearts.

▸ The Mist

10–11PM | SPIKE

The fog continues to terrorize the town, but the *real* threat is all the angry brides from New York who had to cancel their Maine weddings.

▸ Zoo

10–11PM | CBS

Mitch and Jamie head to California in search of a new hybrid. Shouldn't be hard, since *everyone* there drives a Prius.

FRIDAY AUGUST 11

SEASON FINALE

▸ Prince & George Michael: Under the Influence

9–10PM | REELZ

For its finale, the series examines the music stars' lives.

Series Debut

▸ Atypical

STREAMING | NETFLIX

Sam (Keir Gilchrist), the teenager at this dramedy's core, is the typical representation of autism: literal and blunt and obsessive, all qualities the series mines for humor as he explores dating, attends therapy, and butts heads with his protective mom (Jennifer Jason Leigh). Still, the show mostly treats Sam with empathy, highlighting both routine school struggles (unrequited love, awkward sexual encounters) and autism-specific challenges, like a crowded school dance. *Atypical* doesn't live up to its name, but what it lacks in originality it makes up for in charming performances and affection for its messy, refreshingly human characters. B —*Ariana Bacle*

SATURDAY AUGUST 12

Series Finale

▸ Turn: Washington's Spies

9–10PM | AMC

The revolution has been televised for four seasons, and now the spy-versus-spy drama concludes with the decisive Battle of Yorktown. (Spoiler: We win!) How much dramatic license will the show take in settling the long-running feud between Abe Woodhull (Jamie Bell) and his sadistic British nemesis John Simcoe (Samuel Roukin)? Roukin, for one, notes how hard his character has been to kill. "It's been a total of eight [near-death], moments where you think, 'Okay, Simcoe's [gone],'" the actor gloats. No one deserves a bloody exit (Brexit?) more than Simcoe, but as a scene-stealer, Roukin can lose the battle and still win the war. —*Jeff Labrecque*

SWEDISH DICKS: POP TV; SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE: WILL HEATH/NBC; PRINCE: EBET ROBERTS/REDFERNS; ATYPICAL: NETFLIX; TURN: WASHINGTON'S SPIES: ANTONY PLATT/AMC

Oscar Mayer

NATURAL TURKEY, SAY HI TO TASTE.

NO ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS

NO ARTIFICIAL PRESERVATIVES

NO ADDED NITRATES OR NITRITES*

DISCOVER A WORLD OF TASTE

*EXCEPT THOSE NATURALLY OCCURRING IN CELERY JUICE AND SEA SALT.

SATURDAY AUGUST 12 (cont.)

Series Finale

▸Orphan Black

10–11PM | BBC AMERICA

After five seasons of clone conspiracy, *Orphan Black* ends tonight. But will the finale also mark the end for Sarah and her sestras (all played to perfection by the Emmy-winning Tatiana Maslany)? "We've really got a fantastic finale that plays out our entire series endgame," says co-creator Graeme Manson. "We've put our characters in the deepest, darkest hole, and they now have to get out." He promises one more supercomplex multiclone extravaganza to rival the dance party and dinner scenes from finales past, yet also warns that tears may be shed during the sci-fi send-off. "We're really interested in paying it off for Clone Club in a way that honors the sisters and the fandom," says Manson. "But we're not a show that's ever gone easy on the emotions." *—Dalton Ross*

Series Finale

▸Doubt

8–10PM | CBS

This drama starring Katherine Heigl, Dulé Hill, and Laverne Cox ends after 13 episodes, which is sad, because I just found out that this drama starring Katherine Heigl, Dulé Hill, and Laverne Cox existed at all.

Series Debut

▸DuckTales

MIDNIGHT–1AM | DISNEY XD

Nostalgic millennials, rejoice: Scrooge McDuck & Co. return in a special sneak peek titled "Woo-oo!," re-airing for 24 consecutive hours. (The series, voiced by David Tennant and others, debuts in September.)

SUNDAY AUGUST 13

▸Teen Choice 2017

8–10PM | FOX

Chris Pratt, Lucy Hale, and former One Directioner Louis Tomlinson are just a few of the stars who will be forced by their publicists to brave the hordes of shrieking teens.

▸The Strain

10–11PM | FX

Quinlan and Fet are getting closer and closer to acquiring their coveted nuclear weapon. Meanwhile, somewhere in North Korea a roomful of military generals are carefully taking notes.

Series Debut

▸Get Shorty

10PM–MIDNIGHT | EPIX

It's tough to out-cool John Travolta's mobster with Hollywood dreams in the 1995 film *Get Shorty*. Wisely, by casting Chris O'Dowd in the lead, the folks behind this retelling of Elmore Leonard's novel haven't even tried. This is no slam on O'Dowd, who exudes shaggy charm as Miles Daly, a low-level criminal in possession of a script with both box office potential and bloodstains. Ray Romano, too, is terrific as a monster-movie producer and walking bucket of flop sweat. Certainly this pilot does enough to have Leonard fans sticking around for more "Action!" B+ *—Clark Collis*

ORPHAN BLACK: AMC; GET SHORTY: JUSTIN LUBIN/EPIX

Music

EDITED BY **KEVIN O'DONNELL** @ODtron & **NOLAN FEENEY** @NolanFeeney

LOVE THIS?

KESHA
"Woman"

TRY THIS!

BETH DITTO
"Fire"

Kesha's ditched her grimy club sounds for some soulful rock & roll—something ex-Gossip vocalist Ditto has no short supply of on her debut solo LP, *Fake Sugar*.

LOVE THIS?

LUIS FONSI & DADDY YANKEE
"Despacito"

TRY THIS!

MALUMA
"Felices los 4"

The "Despacito" remix was the first Spanish-language No. 1 hit in 21 years, but the next one may already be here: Maluma's reggaeton grooves have just as much heat.

CHARLIE PUTH
"Attention"

STANAJ
"The Way I Love Her"

The falsetto crooners keep falling for the wrong woman, but there's nothing wrong about the high notes their heartache inspires.

HAILEE STEINFELD
"Most Girls"

ASTRID S
"Such a Boy"

Girls rule, boys drool—that's the gist of these breezy and ultracatchy electro-pop confections. They make the battle of the sexes feel like the party of the summer.

KHALID
"Location"

TRINIDAD CARDONA
"Jennifer"

Ah, to be young, in love, and not of legal drinking age. These charismatic teenage R&B upstarts sound wise beyond their years, thanks to their deep, smoky voices.

KATY PERRY FEAT. NICKI MINAJ "Swish Swish"

SOFI TUKKER
"F--- They"

Perry may have aimed her '90s house workout at one specific pop star, but dance duo Sofi Tukker are equal-opportunity bird flippers with this vogueworthy romp.

KESHA: OLIVIA BEE; DITTO: MARY MCCARTNEY; FONSI: OMAR CRUZ; PUTH: CATE LAFFOON; STEINFELD: HANNAH LUX DAVIS; ASTRID S: STIAN ANDERSEN; KHALID: RENZO PHOTO; CARDONA: NEIL BAILEY; TUKKER: SHERVI

THE ULTIMATE SUM

Is your BBQ playlist feeling charred? Trade in this season's smashes for fresh tracks you'll want on heavy

▷ NOTEWORTHY

Thank You 4 Your Service Hometown heroes A Tribe Called Quest announced that July 30's Panorama fest would be their last NYC show ever. • **One Giant Leap** MTV's VMA Moonman award will now be a gender-neutral "Moon Person."

LOVE THIS?

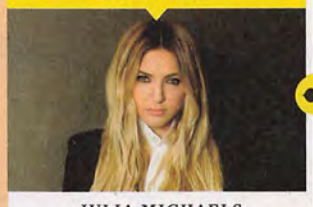
DJ KHALED FEAT. RIHANNA, BRYSON TILLER **"Wild Thoughts"**

TRY THIS!

JUSTINE SKYE FEAT. JEREMIH **"Back for More"**

RiRi and her Roc Nation labelmate Skye let their dirty minds wander over rooftop-ready beats and prominent samples of Santana and Nelly, respectively.

LOVE THIS?



JULIA MICHAELS **"Issues"**

TRY THIS!

LOOTE **"High Without Your Love"**

Michaels' snappy string-driven ode to codependency is totally addictive, but thankfully newcomers Loote have another crisp orchestral loop to keep you hooked.

CALVIN HARRIS FEAT. PHARRELL, KATY PERRY, BIG SEAN **"Feels"**

DEJ LOAF **"No Fear"**

DeJ Loaf broke out as a rapper, but here she beelines to disco to show off her pipes—and packs enough extra funk to make even Calvin & Co. jealous.

ZEDD & ALESSIA CARA **"Stay"**

TOTEM **"Aftertaste"**

If you took the best part of the EDM smash—that slick, spacey bass drop—and put it on repeat, you'd get something close to TOTEM's pulsing bedroom jam.

SELENA GOMEZ **"Bad Liar"**

VERA BLUE **"Lady Powers"**

They're all about that bass (guitar, that is). While Gomez time-travels to the '70s via a Talking Heads sample, Vera Blue heads to the future with this sinewy anthem.

HALSEY **"Now or Never"**

CHARLI XCX FEAT. STARRAH & RAYE **"Dreamer"**

On top of writing hits for Halsey and Rihanna, Starrah brought her hypnotic flow to this atmospheric, trap-tinged highlight from Charli's *Number 1 Angel* mixtape.

MER SINGLES SWAP

rotation. BY NOLAN FEENEY

DJ KHALED: IVAN BERRIOS; SKYE: JANELL SHIRTCLIF; MICHAELS: CATIE LAFFOON; LOOTE: MEREDITH TRUAX; HARRIS: CONOR MCDONNELL; ZEDD + CARA: REUBEN WU; TOTEM: MARCUS JOHN; GOMEZ: KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE; BLUE: TRAIANOS PAKIOUFAKIS; CHARLI XCX: NOAM GALAI/WIREIMAGE

A FRESH TAKE

IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

COMING SOON

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CIGARETTES

Newport
PLATINUM

Grizzly Bear's Vital New Tunes

The indie-rock mainstay's fifth LP, *Painted Ruins*, arrives Aug. 18. While we wait, the band's resident tastemaker and talent finder, Ed Droste, shares his favorite new under-the-radar jams.

1 / FOUR ETHERS
serpentwithfeet

Serpentwithfeet is joining us this fall on tour and we couldn't be more honored. He's making heart-wrenching and fresh music. A must!

2 / FRIENDS
Sure Sure

A local L.A. band I've followed for a bit who I think deserves more attention. This song is endlessly catchy!

3 / TREMBLE
LPX

The female half of MS MR is going solo. If this track is any indicator, [her new EP] is gonna be one hell of a pop-banger release!

4 / FUCHSIA
Thed Jewel

I was introduced to this rapper a few months back, and "Fuchsia" is firmly lodged into my brain. I cannot get enough.

5 / WEEKEND RELATIONSHIP
Guise

I can only find one song by this singer-songwriter—I'm anxiously awaiting new material. Too good.

6 / SWAN SONG
Suno Deko

Suno Deko is creating ethereal, gorgeous songs. I predict great things for him.

7 / FLEX
Ingrid feat. Sevyn Streeter

Solange introduced me to Ingrid years ago, and I've followed her career—she's opened for Beyoncé! So proud of her.

8 / EACH TIME YOU FALL IN LOVE
Cigarettes After Sex

I discovered this song from a Spotify "you might like this" playlist. I did, and now I'm sharing it with you—thanks, internet!

9 / FAULTLINE
Dede

The former Tiny Hearts singer is about to release the most epic album. (I'm on this song.) Her voice is like no other.

10 / ETERNITY/ REAL EYES
T.Y.E

Wouldn't be surprised if this rapper blew up soon.

—As told to Eric Renner Brown

LPX; Cigarettes After Sex's Greg Gonzalez; serpentwithfeet

What to Stream

EW's guide to this week's essential new releases

EAGLES OF DEATH METAL
I Love You All the Time—Live at the Olympia in Paris
This kinetic live LP chronicles the hard-rock group's return to Paris just months after terrorists murdered 89 attendees at their November 2015 concert at the Bataclan. It's both tear-jerkingly emotional and a damn good career-spanning set.

TYLER CHILDERS
Purgatory
Guided by Sturgill Simpson and studio vet David Ferguson (Johnny Cash, Dan Auerbach), the Americana artist's debut is a gorgeous ode to Appalachia that tackles weighty themes like the opioid crisis and the coal industry's decline.

MONDO COZMO
Plastic Soul
Singer-songwriter Joshua Ostrander broke out with his 2016 alt-rock radio hit "Shine" and an opening slot on Bastille's arena tour. His debut full-length—titled in homage to David Bowie—features more of his Oasis-meets-Mumford anthems.

BRETT ELDREDGE
Brett Eldredge
True to its eponymous title, the country chart-topper's latest aptly sums him up as an artist: stomping barn burners, a silky croon, and heartfelt lyricism.

Brett Eldredge

LPX: ELIZA SOROS; GONZALEZ: SUZI PRATT/WIREIMAGE; SERPENTWITHFEET: NOAM GALAI/GETTY IMAGES; ELDREDGE: SUZI PRATT/WIREIMAGE

MORE ON EW.COM To hear Droste's playlist, visit **ew.com/grizzlybearplaylist**

One Direction? Try 5 Directions.

Now that all five members of the boy band—on hiatus since 2016—have officially started their solo careers, we take stock of their progress. BY ARIANA BACLE

LIAM

NIALL

HARRY

ZAYN

LOUIS

POST-1D PERSONA

Liam Payne, 23, is all about ready-to-party swagger, partnering with genre titans (see below) for an extra dose of cool.

With boy-next-door vibes and a penchant for acoustic guitar, Niall Horan, 23, is like John Mayer without the controversy.

Harry Styles, 23, emulates Bowie-style classic rock and has added "actor" to his résumé with Christopher Nolan's *Dunkirk*.

Since quitting the group in 2015, Zayn Malik, 24, has become a fashion-forward R&B artist with sleek, moody jams.

Louis Tomlinson, 25, is a behind-the-scenes force, proved by his extensive songwriting credits on 1D tracks.

NOTABLE COLLABORATORS

Quavo of breakout rap trio Migos lent a verse to "Strip That Down," which **Ed Sheeran** co-wrote. **Zedd** contributed the club vibes to "Get Low."

He teamed up with Adele hitmaker Greg Kurstin for his debut single "This Town."

Styles worked with an impressive roster of producers for *H arry Styles*, including Kanye West favorite **Jeff Bhasker**.

Malik built his new sound with the help of Frank Ocean collaborator **Malay Ho**. Also: He duetted with **Taylor Swift** for the *Fifty Shades Darker* soundtrack.

Tomlinson recruited go-to guest vocalist **Bebe Rexha** for "Back to You," and EDM powerhouse **Steve Aoki** gave him the spotlight on "Just Hold On."

BIGGEST HEADLINES

The X Factor brought him together with One Direction—and girlfriend Cheryl Tweedy, who was a judge on the show. She gave birth to their son in March.

Horan's the most low-key of the bunch: The only real bit of gossip is that he once dated Ellie Goulding. Other than that...he loves golf? Like, a lot?

It's been rumored that Styles—who briefly dated Taylor Swift in 2012—is the inspiration behind *1989* songs like "Style."

His relationship with model Gigi Hadid gets most of the attention, but he's also been admirably outspoken about his struggles with anxiety since going solo.

Good PR: His ex gave birth to their son in January 2016. Not so good: He was arrested for allegedly getting into an altercation with a photographer in March.

HOW'S SOLO LIFE GOING?

"Strip That Down" has been burning up the Hot 100 and Spotify charts.

Both of his singles cracked the Hot 100's top 20, and he kicks off the intimate Flicker Sessions tour—where he'll debut new music—this month.

Harry Styles was a critical and commercial success; this fall he's hitting the road for a world tour that sold out literally in seconds.

The follow-up to 2016's chart-topping *Mind of Mine* is expected this year—though lead single "Still Got Time" floundered on the charts.

The last member to drop a song this year, Tomlinson has an album in the works—on his own label imprint!—and should be catching up soon.

ON BREAKING FROM 1D

"There's a line in ['Strip That Down']: 'I used to be in 1D, now I'm out free.' That's never to be taken in a negative sense.... We're all free now to do our own little thing." (*On Air With Ryan Seacrest*, May 2017)

"I told my managers from the start: When One Direction comes knocking, f--- what I'm doing.... I wouldn't be doing this if it wasn't for that." (*Billboard*, May 2017)

"Every decision I've made since I was 16 was made in a democracy. I felt like it was time to make a decision about the future...and maybe I shouldn't rely on others." (*Rolling Stone*, April 2017)

"From, like, the first year, really, I never really wanted to be there in the band." (Beats 1 radio, January 2016)

"In the last year of One Direction, I was probably the most confident I ever was. And then it was: 'Okay, hiatus!'... It wasn't necessarily a nice conversation." (*The Guardian*, June 2017)

ONE DIRECTION: R.J. SHAUGHNESSY; PAYNE: KEVIN MAZUR/GETTY IMAGES; HORAN: DAVE BENETT/GETTY IMAGES; STYLES: GARY GERSHOFF/GETTY IMAGES; MALIK: KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES; TOMLINSON: VIVIEN KILLILEA/GETTY IMAGES

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Books

▷ **BETWEEN THE LINES**

True Green In a YouTube video, John Green revealed that his personal struggles with obsessive-compulsive disorder inspired his next novel, *Turtles All the Way Down*, which will be released on Oct. 10.

The Unkillable Lizzie Borden

It's been 125 years since Lizzie Borden's father and stepmother were hacked to death. Why we, and the author of a sensual new novel, can't let it go. **BY LEAH GREENBLATT**

WHETHER LIZZIE BORDEN EVER really took an ax and gave her mother 40 whacks, then turned and gave her father 41, we'll never know for sure; there was no CSI in 1892, and she was acquitted—in 90 minutes, no less—by a jury of her peers. So why do we still care so much? More than a century on, the legend of a mad blade-wielding spinster persists. Like so many others (see sidebar), Sarah Schmidt, the author of the richly imagined new novel *See What I Have Done*, became captivated by the crime long before she turned it into art. A librarian in Australia who worked on fiction in her spare time, she claims she was visited by Lizzie night after night in a recurring dream. Disturbed and intrigued, Schmidt steeped herself in Borden lore; she read trial transcripts and even flew 10,000 miles from her home in Melbourne to sleep in the house in Fall River, Mass., where her muse spent half her life and purportedly, one hot August morning, lost her mind.

See is the product of 11 years of that obsession, and it's a prickly, unsettling wonder: a story so tactile and feverishly surreal it feels like a sort of reverse haunting. Of the book's four narrators, three are pulled straight from history: Lizzie, her sister Emma, and the Borden's live-in help, Bridget. The fourth, a violent drifter named Benjamin whose fate will collide with theirs in mostly unseen ways, is Schmidt's own creation. Thirty-two-year-old Lizzie takes the lead, though she's hardly an ordinary heroine: A virginal, high-strung woman-child, she is alternately indulged and oppressed, fussing over her pet pigeons and shoving gritty spoonfuls of sugar directly into her mouth when her imperious stepmother isn't looking. She's also a brat—bossy, petulant, and rude. Emma, a decade

BORDEN: EVERETT COLLECTION

older, chafes nearly as much at the mean smallness of their lives, though she has the awareness to wear it more gracefully. (And the resources to find her own escape as the houseguest of a sympathetic friend.) Irish-born Bridget, homesick and overworked, has come to hate her casually cruel employers; the furious Benjamin just hates everyone, especially the entitled fools who take for granted the many things he's been denied.

The table of misery is set, but is there motivation enough for murder? It would spoil Schmidt's literary game to say too much. What she does do, in dense, swooning paragraphs, is build an indelible mood. In one rapturous passage, Lizzie recalls her only great adventure, 10 weeks on a grand European tour chaperoned by distant cousins. She doesn't just see the continent, she devours it:

> Butter, duck fat, liver fat, triple-cream brie, deep cherry-red wines, pear, clementine and lavender jelly, creme cakes, caviar, escargot in sautéed pine nuts and garlic butter. I did what the French did, licked my fingers, didn't care if people saw, what they thought. Father would've hated it, would have told me I was uncouth. I ate everything up, ate his money, was delightful everywhere I went.

(And her appetite isn't confined to pâté; at one point she runs her tongue along the velvet brim of a sunbonnet in a London shop, overcome.) But her brief taste of emancipation only makes it harder to return to the mouse-drab claustrophobia of home, with its dry biscuits and rancid mutton broth, loaded silences and long, empty afternoons.

As much as *See* is Borden's story, it's also an unvarnished glimpse of what it means to be female, in ways not strictly confined to the late 19th century. Lizzie and her sister, privileged by wealth and status but bound in almost every other way by the conventions of the day, are consigned to a particular fate largely because they are not beautiful. Bridget's every waking moment is subject to the family's whims, and so are her wages; with the little tin that holds her life savings in the elderly Mrs. Borden's hands, she couldn't leave if she wanted to. The ugly things that incubate in that kind of desperation don't bode well for anyone, but they do signal the deeper things that salacious tales of Women Who Kill hardly ever touch on, or gloss over in their race to get to the gory bits. Someone who has never had agency over anything—an old maid, a housemaid, a train-hopping vagrant—suddenly found a power more persuasive than anything on the other end of an ax handle. Though they would still have to be capable, of course, of crossing what most would consider an uncrossable line. The proxy thrill of a real-life murderess, maybe, is in that disconnect: that the fairer sex, biologically designed to birth and nurture life, might just decide one day to take it away.

Schmidt's style has its quirks. She drops definite articles, repeats phrases like incantations, and has a habit of turning unlikely nouns (*termite*, *critter*) into verbs. The vast gaps in her characters' education and experience somehow still allow them to share the same distinctive voice. But her protagonist comes more fully alive than almost any character in recent memory, and the final pages are a wild, mind-bending revelation. Maybe she was unhinged, or perfectly sane; maybe she was framed, or should have run away. The only fact that seems immutably true is that Lizzie Borden wanted more than anything to be free. What she got instead was infamy. **A–**

Christina Ricci as Lizzie

LIZZIE BORDEN'S POP CULTURE PANOPLY

Borden and her infamous ax have inspired everything from podcasts to TV movies to an opera.

BY ISABELLA BIEDENHARN

THE FALL RIVER TRAGEDY *1893*

Local reporter Edwin H. Porter published the first lurid book on the case a year after the murders. It's even illustrated!

LIZZIE BORDEN *1965*

Francis Ford Coppola's uncle Anton Coppola conducted this New York City Opera production based on the murders.

THE LEGEND OF LIZZIE BORDEN *1975*

Bewitched star Elizabeth Montgomery—Borden's sixth cousin once removed—starred in this made-for-TV movie.

LIZZIE BORDEN TOOK AN AX *2014*

Christina Ricci's portrayal was such a success that Lifetime gave the TV movie an eight-episode miniseries in 2015.

THE LIZZIE BORDEN PODCAST *2016*

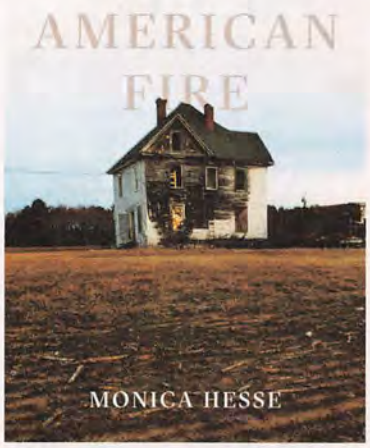
You'll learn about everything from the history of Fall River to details about Lizzie's life post-trial on this podcast.

LIZZIE *2017*

Up next is a big-screen thriller starring Chloë Sevigny as Lizzie and Kristen Stewart as the Bordens' maid.

AX: GETTY IMAGES; MONTGOMERY: EVERETT COLLECTION; RICCI: LIFETIME TELEVISION/PHOTOFEST

LOVE, ARSON, AND LIFE IN A VANISHING LAND



American Fire

BY Monica Hesse | **PAGES** 240 | **GENRE** True Crime

REVIEW BY Tina Jordan *@EWTinaJordan*

DEBORAH CLARK REPORTED THE FIRST fire one cold November night when she looked out her back door and saw flames blooming in an abandoned house nearby. Down the road a few hours later there was a second fire, then a third, then a fourth—the beginning of a five-month, 86-count arson spree that paralyzed the residents of Virginia's rural, desolate Eastern Shore.

The area, once home to prosperous farmers and bustling coastal villages, had attracted plenty of tourists, many of whom stayed at the famous Whispering Pines resort. But over the decades, one economic downturn after another pummeled Accomack County. By the time the fires started in 2012, the fancy hotel was long closed and the population had plummeted. The folks who still called Accomack home were a tight-knit bunch who scratched out livings as best they could, often at one of the Tyson or Perdue chicken farms dotting the countryside. At first it was hard for investigators to believe that one of these locals was setting all the fires. Given the remoteness of the Eastern Shore, though, there really wasn't any other possibility.

But Hesse's book isn't about finding the culprits, unmasked at the outset as an auto mechanic and his girlfriend. It's about trying to understand the combination of social and personal pressures that led the pair to crisscross the county like a sort of Bonnie and Clyde, dousing rags and lighting matches. Hesse, who covered the arsons for *The Washington Post*, is an ace reporter, but she's an even better storyteller. *American Fire* is as propulsive as a crime thriller. **A–**

POP CULTURE OF MY LIFE

R.L. STI

1

MY FAVORITE BOOK AS A KID
Pinocchio. My mother read this to me at a very young age, 3 or 4. The original *Pinocchio* is very violent—Pinocchio takes a big wooden mallet and smashes Jiminy Cricket against the wall, and then he falls asleep with his feet on the stove and burns his feet off. So that's why I've been obsessed with puppets and dummies ever since.

2

THE BOOK THAT INSPIRED ME TO BECOME A WRITER
Barefoot Boy With Cheek, by a Midwestern humorist named Max Shulman. I read this book and I laughed so hard, I couldn't breathe. I tried to copy it. That's what I wanted to do—write funny novels. I never planned to be scary.

3

THE BOOK I'VE READ OVER AND OVER AGAIN
Ray Bradbury's *Dandelion Wine*, about growing up in the Midwest. It's like poetry—every page is beautiful. I try to read it once a year just to remember what good writing is.

4

THE TV SHOW I'M BINGING
Bloodline, about a tangled Florida family. It's really good.

5

MY GUILTY-PLEASURE TV SHOWS
I have nothing but guilty pleasures! That's what my wife says. I still watch *The Three Stooges*. And I have a 21-disc set of *Laurel & Hardy*. I brought my son up with Laurel and Hardy.

6

A WRITER I REALLY ADMIRE
P.G. Wodehouse. I love the Jeeves books, and I think I've read them all. I'd recommend *Right Ho, Jeeves*, though they're all pretty much the same (hey, that's what I do!). His language is almost Shakespearean; it flows with such ease. He's hilarious. The characters are so stupid!

7

THE FICTIONAL CHARACTER I'D WANT ON MY SIDE DURING THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE
Definitely Jack Reacher.

8

MY ALL-TIME FAVORITE MOVIE
A Damsel in Distress, with Fred Astaire. I watch it once or twice a year.

STINE: DAN NELKEN; *BLOODLINE*: SAEED ADYANI/NETFLIX; *THE THREE STOOGES*: EVERETT COLLECTION

NE

The children's horror author—whose beloved Goosebumps series turns 25 this year—riffs on his love of *Pinocchio*, P.G. Wodehouse, and *Pet Sematary*.

BY ISABELLA BIEDENHARN

9

THE LAST BOOK I GAVE AS A GIFT

The Woman in Cabin 10 by Ruth Ware, a really good old-fashioned mystery. Keeps you guessing.

10

THE SCARIEST BOOK I'VE EVER READ

Pet Sematary by Stephen King is the all-time creepiest. I've stolen the plot about five times—I had to!

11

THE SCARIEST MOVIE I'VE EVER SEEN

I don't get scared at movies! There's something missing in my brain. Really. Horror makes me laugh.

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	EW	
FICTION	A–	**BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS** By Lawrence Osborne • PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER (E C A) After two young women hiking on a Greek island stumble upon a Syrian migrant, one of them—an icy manipulator in the Tom Ripley vein—sets in motion a plan to help that goes horrifically awry.
FICTION	B+	**FIERCE KINGDOM** | By Gin Phillips • THRILLER (E C A) Set after-hours in a darkened zoo, Phillips' tale of a mother's desperate struggle to protect her child is like a shot of pure adrenaline. But it's not just the action that will keep you turning pages: *Fierce Kingdom* is a moving story, too.
FICTION	B+	**THE OUTER CAPE** | By Patrick Dacey • FAMILY DRAMA (E C A) A health crisis forces Robert and Irene Kelly to confront the emotional fallout from their tumultuous, decades-long marriage, eroded by infidelity, the strain of parenthood, and bad business decisions.
FICTION	B+	**WHAT WE LOSE** | By Zinzi Clemmons • COMING-OF-AGE NOVEL (E A) Illness, race, and heartbreak collide in this beautiful debut about a college student who's trying to come to terms with the death of her vivacious South African-born mother.
FICTION	B	**THE PARTY** | By Elizabeth Day • PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER (E C A) Something terrible has happened at a lavish 40th-birthday bash, and the reader slowly figures out what it is as the story unspools from different viewpoints.
NONFICTION	A–	**BEYOND THE HIGH BLUE AIR** By Lu Spinney • MEMOIR (E C A) At first, when Spinney's son suffers a terrible brain injury in the Alps—"the thwack of board and helmet on hard ice"—she just wants him to live. He does, but in such agony and in such diminished circumstances that when he indicates he wants to die, she knows she must help.
NONFICTION	A–	**DEVIL'S BARGAIN** | By Joshua Green • POLITICS (E A) In this diligently reported book, Green examines alt-right mastermind Steve Bannon's influence on Donald Trump's 2016 presidential victory.
ROMANCE	A–	**THE DAY OF THE DUCHESS** By Sarah MacLean • HISTORICAL (E C A) MacLean's tale of redemption and second chances—about a duchess who desperately wants a divorce from her estranged husband—features an all-time great groveling scene.
ROMANCE	B+	**SOME KIND OF HERO** | By Suzanne Brockmann • SUSPENSE (E C A) When his 15-year-old daughter vanishes, a hot Navy SEAL instructor turns to a sassy romance writer, who just happens to live across the street, for help—and solace.

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY (ISSN 10490434) IS PUBLISHED WEEKLY EXCEPT FOR ONE WEEK IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, APRIL, MAY, JUNE, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, AND TWO WEEKS IN MARCH AND JULY BY ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY INC., A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF TIME INC. PRINCIPAL OFFICE: 225 LIBERTY STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10281. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY, AND ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. U.S. SUBSCRIPTIONS: $49.92 FOR ONE YEAR. CANADA POST PUBLICATIONS MAIL AGREEMENT NO. 40110178. RETURN UNDELIVERABLE CANADA ADDRESSES TO: POSTAL STN. A, P.O. BOX 4327, TORONTO, ON M5W 3H5. GST 888381621RT0001. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, P.O. BOX 62120, TAMPA, FL 33662-2120. CALL 1-800-274-6800, OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.EW.COM/SUBSCRIBERSERVICES. ©2017 ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY, EW, CRITICAL MASS, LISTEN TO THIS, THE MUST LIST, AND THE SHAW REPORT ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY INC. FANUARY IS A TRADEMARK OF ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY INC. SUBSCRIBERS: IF THE POSTAL AUTHORITIES ALERT US THAT YOUR MAGAZINE IS UNDELIVERABLE, WE HAVE NO FURTHER OBLIGATION UNLESS WE RECEIVE A CORRECTED ADDRESS WITHIN TWO YEARS. YOUR BANK MAY PROVIDE UPDATES TO THE CARD INFORMATION WE HAVE ON FILE. YOU MAY OPT OUT OF THIS SERVICE AT ANY TIME. MAILING LIST: WE MAKE A PORTION OF OUR MAILING LIST AVAILABLE TO REPUTABLE FIRMS. IF YOU WOULD PREFER THAT WE NOT INCLUDE YOUR NAME, PLEASE CALL OR WRITE US. PRINTED IN THE USA. ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Please Recycle This Magazine

KEY E = E-BOOK C = CD A = AUDIBLE

THIS WEEK'S HITS & MISSES

The Bullseye

BY **MARC SNETIKER** @MarcSnetiker

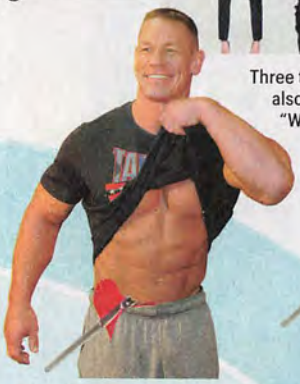
Well, next season of *Dancing With the Stars* already sucks.

Three times more Cara Delevingne also means three times more "Who is Cara Delevingne?"

Ray Donovan has returned, and your parents are honestly just *so* excited.

You can now successfully search for "Joe Manganiello playing *Dungeons & Dragons*" on the internet. You can also search for him doing other things, but we can't talk about those.

~~Don't~~ make things *Difficult*.



Surprise, surprise, the Transformers spin-off added another truck.

Hillary announces upcoming memoir *What Happened*—which also could've been called *Lost* and would've left us just as confused as the show.

Priyanka Chopra is developing a new comedy with ABC, citing irreconcilable differences with all the henleys from *Quantico*.

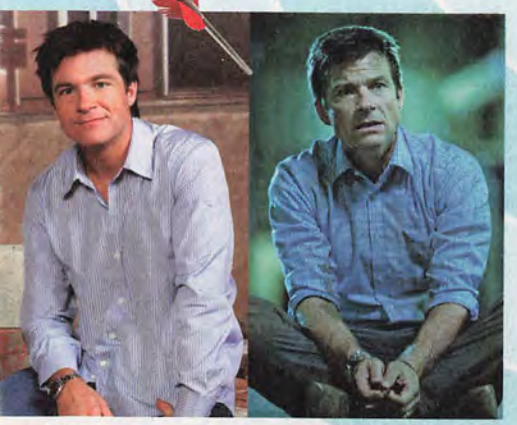
Anne Hathaway is in talks to play Barbie, and please, please, PLEASE let Meryl be Skipper.

This Twain is rolling back into the station, and if that don't impress you much, don't bother coming aboard.

Midnight, Texas: finally, a *True Blood* for the whole family for some reason

And just like that, we're morning (show) people.

Two years since *Parks and Rec* went off the air and Jerry still can't catch a break.



Draw whatever conclusion you want, but these photos were taken before and after starring in *Zootopia*.

Robert Pattinson says he almost got fired from *Twilight* for not smiling enough. At last, two costars treated equally.

(JOHN CERNA; CHANCE YEH/FILMMAGIC; BILLY EICHNER; LINDA KALLERUS/HULU; JULIE KLAUSNER; BARBARA NITKE/HULU; SHANIA TWAIN; BRIAN BOWEN SMITH; *MIDNIGHT, TEXAS*; CATHY KANAVY/NBC; *PARKS AND REC* CAST; MICHAEL KOVAC/GETTY IMAGES; TWILIGHT; FRANCOIS DURANDEAU/GETTY IMAGES; ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT; GAVIN BOND/FOX; *OZARK*; JACKSON DAVIS/NETFLIX; *THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA*; EVERETT COLLECTION; CHOPRA; PHILIPPE BOSSE/ABC/GETTY IMAGES; MANGANIELLO; KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/WIREIMAGE.COM; *RAY DONOVAN*; MICHAEL DESMOND/SHOWTIME; ANTHONY SCARAMUCCI; GILBERT CARRASQUILLO/FILMMAGIC; SEAN SPICER; CHRIS KLEPONIS-POOL VIA GETTY IMAGES

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